# CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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## IRAN'S BIG HORMUZ ASSURANCE

# 'Our Indian friends in safe hands'

Amid rising tensions in the Gulf, Iran reassured India on the safety of its shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global oil supply. The stakes are particularly high for India, which relies heavily on energy imports passing through the critical oil chokepoint

**TEHRAN**

Iran has sought to reassure India over the safety of its interests in the Strait of Hormuz, issuing a message on social media as tensions escalated sharply in the Gulf region, while reports claimed that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is charging vessels around $1 per barrel of oil for safe passage using non-dollar payment methods.

The message to Indians followed remarks by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi that only Iran and Oman would determine the future of the strait through which about 20 per cent of global oil and LNG trade flows.

"Our Indian friends are in safe hands, no worries," Iran's embassy in New Delhi said in a post on X, along with a wink emoji.

This is a possible signal of preferential treatment for India as the Strait of Hormuz faces disruption due to the US-Israel war on Iran. Despite the global tensions, India has not reported major supply concerns for oil and gas. This is significant, as India is one of the world's largest oil importers.

Indian officials have reassured the public that fuel stocks remain adequate, and the government has intervened in cases of black marketing of LPG and increases in aviation turbine fuel prices.

### 8 Indian ships exit Hormuz amid war

At least eight Indian ships have so far exited the Strait of Hormuz. These include two LPG carriers, BW TYR and BW ELM, carrying a combined LPG cargo of about 94,000 tonnes. However, the Union government said 18 Indian-flagged vessels are still stuck in the western Persian Gulf.

A similar message was shared by Iran Embassy in Saudi, which asserted that "ONLY Iran and Oman will decide the future of the Strait of Hormuz" and added, "You are in safe hands, no worries."

**Iran claims full control of Strait of Hormuz**

The reassurance comes as Iran claims "full and decisive control" over the critical chokepoint, describing its actions as self-defence following US and Israeli strikes from February 28. It has repeatedly said that friendly nations like India, China, Russia, Pakistan, and Iraq are being granted safe transit through the waterway. Several Indian-flagged vessels have already passed through after coordination with Iran.

**Iran de-dollarising oil trade?**

As per reports, the IRGC has effectively established a toll system for commercial shipping along the Strait and oil tankers are being charged $1 per barrel. This means large vessels carrying about 2 million barrels could pay up to $2 million per transit. Payments are required in Chinese yuan or stablecoins such as USDT, bypassing US-dominated financial systems, the report added. However, the legal basis for Iranian tolls under international maritime law is not yet clear. International law typically limits territorial control to 12 nautical miles.

**Shipping traffic along Strait still low**

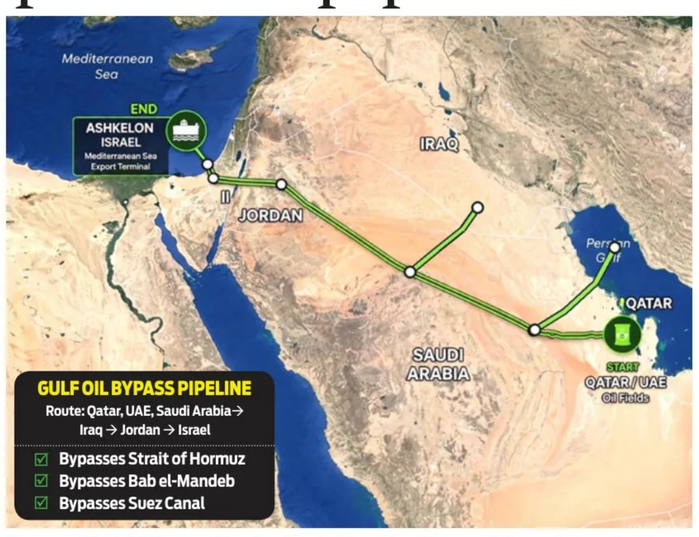
Despite the assurances by Iran, shipping traffic via the Hormuz remains below pre-conflict levels. Several major carriers are staying away from the route as insurance costs have surged, particularly following incidents like drone strike on a Kuwaiti tanker.

## Gulf states rush to bypass Strait for oil exports via pipelines

**DUBAI**

The Iran war has shown that the Strait of Hormuz is no longer a fully reliable route for global oil trade.

Oil-producing nations in the Gulf, caught in tensions involving the US, Israel and Iran, are now urgently advancing plans for new pipelines, transport corridors and infrastructure to bypass the chokepoint. These projects had been discussed for years, but were repeatedly delayed. Now, they are being treated as a strategic necessity despite high costs and political complexities.




Proposed Gulf Oil Bypass Pipeline Route (Avoiding Hormuz & Suez chokepoints)

**EXISTING PIPELINES ARE OPERATING AT FULL CAPACITY**

- Saudi Arabia's East-West Petroline, stretching 1,200 km from Abqaiq to the Red Sea port of Yanbu, is operating at its full capacity of roughly 7 million barrels per day (mbpd).
- The UAE's Abu Dhabi Crude Oil Pipeline (ADCOP), which carries up to 1.8 mbpd from Habshan to Fujairah outside the strait, is also at maximum capacity.
- Together, these routes provide around 8–9 mbpd of bypass capacity—far short of the estimated 17–21 mbpd that typically transits through the Strait of Hormuz.

**ALTERNATIVE PLANS IN UAE, OMAN AND IRAQ**

- One key proposal is the expansion of the UAE's Fujairah corridor. Plans include an additional pipeline that could add about 1.5 mbpd and link offshore fields directly to export terminals outside Hormuz. Another proposal is a pipeline to Oman's Duqm port on the Arabian Sea.
- Other plans include expanding the Iraq–Turkey pipeline from Kirkuk to the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, which has a nominal capacity of 1.6 mbpd. The project was delayed by political disputes. The Iraq Pipeline through Saudi Arabia, which runs to the Red Sea, is also being reconsidered.

## India joins 60 countries to reopen Strait

**NEW DELHI**

At the invitation of the UK, India joined a meeting of over 60 countries to explore ways to reopen the vital Strait of Hormuz, whose closure has sent oil prices spiralling, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri represented India at a UK-led summit. Misri, joining the summit virtually, talked about New Delhi's stance on safety of international shipping lanes in the region. "As far as India is concerned, you very well know that we stand for free and open commercial shipping, and for maritime security in keeping with international law," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. "We continue to call for ensuring safe and free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz as a matter of priority," he said. Around 35 countries were invited to the virtual meeting by the UK. The talks were billed as the opening efforts towards building a coalition to ensure security in the Hormuz, once the current conflict ends.

**It would be unrealistic to launch a military operation to force open the Strait of Hormuz.**
—Emmanuel Macron, French President

### OPEC+ to discuss oil output hike on Sunday: Report

OPEC+ is expected to consider another increase in oil production when eight of its members meet on April 5, citing sources. The move would allow major producers to quickly raise supply if the Strait of Hormuz, currently disrupted by the US-Israeli conflict with Iran, reopens.

### World on edge of wider war: UN chief

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that the Middle East conflict risks escalating. "We are on the edge of a wider war that would engulf the Middle East with dramatic impacts around the globe," he said. "When the Hormuz is strangled, the world's poorest and most vulnerable cannot breathe."

## India looks to turn LPG import crisis into push for piped gas

**NEW DELHI**

India is using a cooking gas crisis triggered by the Iran war to plug leaks in its local distribution chain and strengthen infrastructure to expedite a shift towards piped gas as it looks to reduce liquefied petroleum gas imports and spending on subsidies.

The government has invoked emergency powers to ensure that limited LPG supplies are directed toward actual household use and will halt supplies after three months for customers linked to piped gas connections.

"Witness rapid expansion of city gas distribution network across the country, a crisis turned into an opportunity, opens new tab", said Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas secretary Neeraj Mittal on social media. In March, India added 5,80,000 new households to its piped gas supply network, the government said on Tuesday, compared with 342,300 a year earlier.

## 'Grounded' Tejas LCAs set to fly again

**NEW DELHI**



The Indian Air Force's Tejas light combat jets are set to return to the skies next week, two months after the entire fleet was grounded following an accident involving one of the aircraft at a frontline airbase.

D K Sunil, the Chairman and Managing Director of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the manufacturer of the jets, said the entire fleet of 34 Tejas will fly most likely from April 8 as the glitch found onaboard the aircraft's software has been resolved.

## Parl to clear women's quota bill on April 16

**NEW DELHI**

Parliament will reconvene on April 16 to clear a Bill for early implementation of 33% women's quota in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies with the Opposition alleging that the government has set the timeline to take political advantage ahead of elections, especially in West Bengal.

Both Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh adjourned the Houses after passing three Bills to meet again at 11 AM on April 16 but did not announce when the Session would conclude. There are reports that the extended session would end on April 18.

The unprecedented reconvening of the Budget Session, which usually concludes in the first week of April, comes a week ahead of elections in Tamil Nadu and the first phase in West Bengal, as the government rejected the opposition demand for an all-party meeting to discuss the proposal after the conclusion of Assembly polls on April 29.

The government has initiated consultation with parties in the past fortnight seeking support for two Bills to amend the Constitution.

## AAP drops Chadha as RS deputy leader, names Ashok Mittal

**NEW DELHI**

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has written to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat requesting the removal of Raghav Chadha from the post of deputy leader of the party in the Rajya Sabha, as per reports.

In the same communication, the party also asked that Chadha should not be allotted speaking time from AAP's quota in the Upper House, indicating a major shift in its parliamentary strategy.

The party has proposed Ashok Mittal as the new deputy leader and urged the secretariat to formalise the appointment at the earliest.

The move comes amid evolving internal dynamics within the party's parliamentary wing, though AAP has not publicly detailed the reasons behind the decision so far. The party currently has 10 MPs in the Rajya Sabha, seven from Punjab and three from Delhi.

**From Kejriwal's blue-eyed boy to sidelined aide, the MP now finds himself pushed to the margins amid internal unease, controversy, and shifting political equations.**

Chadha, a Rajya Sabha memeber elected from Punjab in 2022, has been one of AAP's most visible national faces and among the younger leaders in the chamber. Over the years, he has frequently spoken in Parliament on issues ranging from infrastructure and urban governance to economic policy and citizen welfare.

**POLICE FLAG DAY**

## *Where there is law, order, that state will develop: CM*

**BENGALURU**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday presented the Chief Minister's Medal to 158 police personnel in recognition of their exemplary service during the annual Police Flag Day celebrations.

Addressing the awardees and their families, Siddaramaiah said, "158 people have been awarded the Chief Minister's Medal. I congratulate all of them on behalf of the government. I also wish their families well. We have been celebrating Police Flag Day since April 2. We have been celebrating it since 1965".



He added, "On this occasion, it is very important for the police to introspect, the police work 24 hours a day. There is no fixed time like other departments; they should also work on festivals. Because it is necessary to maintain peace, harmony and order in society, this is the responsibility of the police. Our government's hope is that women, the disabled, children and the weaker sections of society should be protected. In a state or country where there is law and order, that state will develop."

While acknowledging the state's progress in other areas, the CM said, "Capital investment in that state will increase, employment will increase, and GDP will also increase. I would like to talk about the responsibility of the police in terms of paying more attention to the development of the state. In the last 3 years, murder, robbery, theft and major crimes have been decreasing. We are at the top in cybercrime and drugs. The detection rate is also low. The Karnataka government should make it drug-free. I have said it many times. I will say it again".

Noting that some personnel have struggled to keep pace with digital advancements, he said if inspectors work honestly, many crimes can be prevented, and crime can be reduced using this technology,

QUICK READ

## 'We can't do anything if price of medicines goes up due to war'

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has said that if the prices of medicines go up due to the ongoing war in the Middle East, we will not be able to do anything. Talking about the price hike of medicines, he said, it is based on the policy of the central government. It is not in our hands to increase the prices, he said. Patients here should not be deprived of medicines. That's how we take care of it. We will give whatever medicine is required by the government. If the price is higher, we will buy at the same price. The well-being of our patients is paramount, he said.

## APSRTC bus hits divider in B'luru, passengers safe

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

An accident occurred when a speeding Andhra Pradesh State Transport Corporation (APSRTC) bus hit a divider near Shivananda Circle in Bengaluru. A bus coming from Adoni to Bengaluru via Anantapur hit a divider in the early hours of Thursday morning. The front wheel and engine of the bus were torn off due to the force of the accident. Fortunately, the passengers were safe in the accident and there were no casualties. Currently, the High Grounds police are trying to pull out the bus stuck in the divider.

## PIL filed in HC challenging govt's decision to grade Hindi

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the High Court challenging the government's decision to give grades to third language in the SSLC examination. HN Chandana and S Venkatesh have filed the petition. The petition has been filed against the Secretary of the School Education Department, the Commissioner and the Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa. It is stated in the petition that the government's action is not correct. A meeting with academicians should be held before making any educational changes. The opinion of academics should be sought. However, it is not appropriate for the state government to take a unilateral decision without following any process, he said. The petition is yet to be heard in the High Court.

# 'MONEY TRAP': DATING APP LURE DRAINS ₹65K IN MINUTES

### A new scam targeting young professionals, especially software engineers, uses dating apps and pubs to extract huge bills within minutes

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

The city is witnessing a worrying rise in organised frauds, with a new variant of honey-trap scams now emerging as a money trap targeting young men.

The scam, which is rapidly spreading across the city, is primarily aimed at software engineers and professionals, draining tens of thousands of rupees in a matter of minutes.

The fraud typically begins on popular dating apps like Tinder, where scammers use attractive profile pictures of women to approach unsuspecting victims. After initiating friendly conversations, the women gradually build trust through frequent chats and emotional engagement. Once a level of comfort is established, the victim is invited to meet in person.

In most cases, the woman suggests a pub location herself. When the victim arrives, she behaves warmly and starts ordering drinks in quick succession. Within just 20 to 30 minutes, multiple expensive orders - often including four to five tequila shots are placed.

Soon after, the woman excuses herself, usually claiming to go to the washroom, and disappears without returning. The victim is then left alone with an unexpectedly high bill.

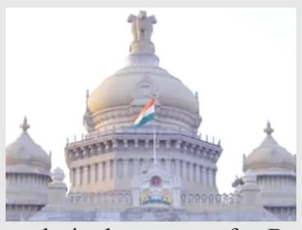
A recent case from the Bellandur area highlights the scale of the fraud. A software engineer was handed a bill of Rs 65,000 by pub staff after such an encounter. Shocked by the amount for just a few drinks, he questioned the charges. However, staff allegedly threatened to call the police if he refused to pay. Fearing embarrassment and further trouble, he settled the bill and left.

In another similar incident, a man from North Karnataka was presented with a bill of Rs 37,000. Unlike the earlier case, he confronted the situation and immediately dialled 112, reaching out to the Hoysala police. Officers arrived at the spot and took both parties to the police station. However, no formal complaint was registered, and the matter was reportedly deferred, raising concerns.

The absence of an FIR even days after such incidents has triggered suspicion among the public. Questions are now being raised about whether pub owners, the women involved, and even certain police personnel could be working together in this organised racket. Authorities have not officially confirmed any nexus, but the pattern of similar complaints has alarmed citizens.

## Govt buildings in B'luru among biggest tax defaulters

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU



Government buildings in Bengaluru have emerged among the city's biggest service tax defaulters, collectively owing nearly Rs 472.7 crore in unpaid charges, sparking sharp criticism over selective enforcement of tax collection by civic authorities. Disclosing this, NR Ramesh, former opposition leader in the erstwhile BBMP council (now Greater Bengaluru Authority), said, before auctioning properties of middle and lower middle-class citizens over small tax dues, authorities must act against these government buildings that owe nearly Rs 473 crore.

"Why is there no action against these major defaulters. Across zones, the highest arrears are from the East Zone Rs 246.4 crore followed by Yelahanka Rs 67.5 crore, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Rs 57.5 crore, Mahadevapura Rs 39.1 crore and South Zone Rs 33.7 crore," he said.

Reacting to this latest revelation, GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said, the matter is being examined, and appropriate steps will be taken to ensure recovery in accordance with the law.

Data highlights that key administrative centres including Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha, Raj Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Guest House and a multistoreyed government complex cumulatively account for Rs 14.9 crore in pending dues, with non-payment reportedly continuing since 2008-09.

Senior GBA officials preferring anonymity confirmed the quantum of service charges due from government buildings, as disclosed by Ramesh, is true. Buildings exempted from paying property tax are required to pay service charges. Ramesh alleged that while citizens with property tax dues as low as Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh face property attachment and auction, large defaulters including government departments, tech parks and commercial establishments are spared strict enforcement. Calling for accountability, Ramesh urged the civic body to issue legal notices and consider sealing or attaching government properties to recover dues. If there is a genuine intent to improve the financial health of civic bodies, let them begin with government establishments. The same law must apply to everyone, Ramesh added. GBA officials indicated that coordination with state departments is on, with demand notices and reconciliations being pursued.

## Dutch national held for sending rotten vegetables, obscene photos to KIA

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

A 65-year-old Dutch national of Indian origin has been arrested for allegedly sending a parcel containing unusual items to the administrative office of Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru, police said. The man, identified as Subhash Jai Ajeez, had sent the parcel in January this year.

According to police, it contained a toothpaste cover, decaying flower garlands, rotten tomatoes, pieces of iron and obscene photographs. Authorities carried out a preliminary inquiry before filing a formal complaint on March 4. Police said they traced Ajeez using CCTV footage and local intelligence. He was found sleeping near a temple in the Madiwala area of the city, a senior officer said.

During questioning, Ajeez told police that he did not have any malicious intent and claimed the parcel was part of a ritual meant to prevent untoward incidents at the airport. He also told officers that he had sent similar parcels to other airports, the officer added. Police said Ajeez is an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder and a retired professional who receives a monthly pension of about €2,000. He seemed to be mentally disturbed.

He claimed he did not have any ill intention of creating any kind of trouble but only intended to ensure that no untoward incidents occur at Bengaluru airport, the officer said. Ajeez has been remanded to judicial custody. Police said further action would depend on the results of his medical examination, adding that the investigation is ongoing.

## Missing murder convict held in saffron disguise after 20 days

**CH NEWS, BENGALURU**

A 40-year-old murder convict, M Ramakrishna, who had jumped emergency parole and gone incommunicado, landed in police custody earlier this week.

Ramakrishna had walked out of Bengaluru Central Prison on December 11, 2025, after the high court directed prison authorities to grant him 90-day parole. However, he failed to return to prison on the scheduled date of March 10, prompting officials to lodge a complaint with Parappana Agrahara police.

M Narayana, DCP (Electronics City), said a special team was formed to trace the fugitive. One of the main challenges was that Ramakrishna was not carrying a mobile phone or using any debit or credit cards, leaving investigators with little digital trail to follow.

Ramakrishna is from Kyatasandra in Tumakuru. One team visited his family, who said he had stayed with them during his parole and left home on the morning of March 10, claiming he was returning to prison. We checked CCTV footage at the Kyatasandra bus stand and other locations along the highway, but unfortunately lost his trail as there was no clear footage of his movements, Narayana said. Meanwhile, police kept a close watch on the movements of the fugitive's family, particularly his elder son.

One day, we found that his son had received a call on his mobile phone from a coin-operated telephone booth at the KSRTC bus stand in Kadur. Treating this as a crucial lead, we rushed to the spot and examined CCTV footage. In hazy visuals, we noticed a man in a saffron robe loitering near the telephone booth, the DCP said. A plainclothes team was immediately dispatched to Kadur, where they checked local lodges. They discovered that a man dressed in saffron robes had checked into a small hotel.

## Techie ends life after baby drowns in bucket

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

A devastated Pratibha, unable to save her child, reportedly blamed herself for the tragedy; In the death note, she wrote she felt responsible for her son's death.

An eleven-month-old baby boy accidentally drowned in a bucket of water, following which his mother, unable to cope with the loss, died by suicide, leaving behind a note.

The incident occurred in in Byraveshwaranagar in West Bengaluru. The deceased infant has been identified as Agasthya Wali, while the mother, Pratibha (29), was a software professional working from home.

Her husband, Mahantesh Wali, who is also a software engineer was away at work at the time of the incident.

According to police and preliminary investigation, Pratibha had briefly gone to the terrace in the evening to collect dried clothes, leaving the infant alone at home. During this time, the child is believed to have wandered into the bathroom, where he accidentally fell into a bucket filled with water and drowned. A devastated Pratibha, unable to save her child, reportedly blamed herself for the tragedy. In a note recovered from the scene, she wrote that she felt responsible for her son's death and could not live with the guilt.

Police said she initially attempted suicide by consuming tablets and injuring her wrist, but when that failed, she ultimately hanged herself.

The incident came to light at night when Mahantesh returned home. After receiving no response despite repeated attempts, he used a spare key to enter the house, only to find his wife hanging and the child lying lifeless on the bed.

According to Mahantesh's complaint, he returned home around 6.30 pm. When there was no response after knocking on the door, he called his wife, but the calls went unanswered. He then opened a window, retrieved the key and unlocked the door, only to find her hanging with a saree. Dolo 650 empty strips were found lying next to the infant, and her left wrist was cut. A note and an empty strip of tablets were found next to the infant and were recovered from the spot. A case of unnatural death has been registered at Chandra Layout police station, and further investigation is underway.

## Metro above, chaos below: Bannerghatta Road turns nightmare for commuters

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

The road from Jayadeva Hospital to Royal Meenakshi Mall has become extremely difficult for commuters, with repeated digging and poor restoration leaving it damaged, uneven and unsafe for vehicles.

Multiple rounds of work by BWSSB and BMRCL have led to frequent digging, leaving the road in poor condition as restoration work has been inadequate and inconsistent across the stretch.

Officials say Rs 12 crore has been allocated for repairs, but the actual requirement exceeds Rs 60 crore, limiting work to only basic fixes rather than a complete and lasting solution. Thick dust layers and exposed basalt stones make travel risky, especially for two-wheelers, increasing chances of accidents and making the stretch uncomfortable and dangerous for daily commuters.

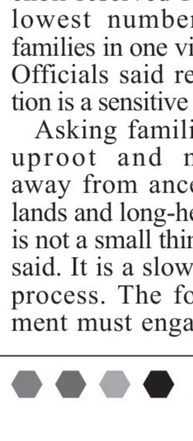
While parts near Jayadeva Hospital are manageable, the section near IIM-Bangalore is particularly bad, with half-dug roads, poor visibility, and extremely unsafe driving conditions reported by commuters. Heavy vehicle flow from JP Nagar, Hulimavu, BTM Layout and Electronics City adds to congestion, as all routes merge into Bannerghatta Road, slowing traffic and worsening commuter delays.

## Copyright row: Rakshit Shetty's Paramvah Studios fined ₹ 25L

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

The Delhi High Court has directed Paramvah Studios and its founder, Kannada actor-director Rakshit Shetty, to pay an additional Rs 5 lakh as penal costs for the unauthorised use of two songs in the film Bachelor Party.

This is in addition to the Rs 20 lakh cost imposed on August12, 2024, which has already been deposited by the studio. In an order, Justice Tejas Karia noted that the use of the original works was not minimal.



The song Omme Ninnanu was used for 31 seconds, while Nyaya Ellide featured for 7 seconds. The Court observed that even a single frame from a copyrighted audio-visual work cannot be used without the owner's permission. MRT Music, which claims ownership of the songs had approached the court over the alleged infringement.

## Police cracks down on fake IPL ticket racket

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

In the midst of the IPL cricket festival, a fake ticket network has come to light in Bengaluru. The Bengaluru Police has now switched to a completely online ticketing system to curb this racket.

During the recent match between RCB and SRH, he was charged Rs 1,500. Tickets were distributed. Capitalizing on this, the fraudsters created and sold fake tickets that resembled the real tickets.

The matter came to light when the fans who came to watch the match scanned the tickets and they did not work. As a precautionary measure, Rs 1,500 was stolen from the RCB vs CSK match on April 5. It has also been decided to distribute tickets completely online. Police made an innovative attempt to add metro tickets with IPL tickets this time.

This experiment has been an unprecedented success. Seeing this successful model in Bengaluru, Metro officials from various states, including Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi, are now contacting BMRCL officials.

COLD RESPONSE FOR RELOCATION

## *Relocation of 23k forest families slows amid high costs*

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Of the 23,828 forest-dwelling families identified by the government for relocation to protect wildlife and reduce human-animal conflict across nine reserved forests, only 4,316 families have so far agreed to voluntarily move out of core forest areas, indicating a prolonged and complex process ahead.

The highest concentration of families is in Kali reserved forest, where 7,856 families live in 69 villages. This is followed by MM Hills with 7,200 families in 18 villages, and the Sharavathi wildlife range with 3,000 families in six villages. Chincholi reserved forest has the lowest number, 96 families in one village. Officials said relocation is a sensitive issue.

Asking families to uproot and move away from ancestral lands and long-held properties is not a small thing, an official said. It is a slow, long-drawn process. The forest department must engage regularly with tribal families and their representatives.

As newer generations get exposed to technology and progress, we expect voluntary relocation to improve. While persuading families is a challenge, the larger hurdle for the government is financial. Officials estimate that a staggering Rs 4,000 crore will be required to relocate all identified families.

Under the National Tiger Conservation Authority compensation package, each individual above 18 years is entitled to Rs 15 lakh. Based on current population estimates, the total outlay has escalated significantly. In contrast, the government currently allocates only around Rs 5 crore annually for such relocation efforts. Officials cited the Kudremukh project as an example of rising costs.

Approved in 2005 at under Rs 150 crore, the project is now estimated at Rs 300 crore, with further delays likely to see costs soar again. Kudremukh alone has 108 villages and 1,382 families, of which 670 have agreed to relocate, sources said. This fiscal, the government sanctioned an additional Rs 20 crore as a special grant for Kudremukh, aimed at accelerating relocation and creating more space for wildlife.

Forest Minister Eswhar Khandre said the government remains committed to protecting forests while ensuring fair rehabilitation for displaced families. Survey details will give us a clearer picture of the financial requirement.

QUICK READ

## Police Flag Day Celebrated With Pride

**BIDAR**

Police Flag Day 2026 was celebrated with pride and discipline at the District Police Parade Ground in Bidar on Thursday. The event was organized by the district police in the presence of the Superintendent of Police, senior officials, and dignitaries. The programme began with the arrival of chief guests, followed by a guard of honour and parade inspection. Police teams presented a coordinated march past. The police flag was hoisted, and the national anthem was observed with respect. Speakers praised the dedication and service of police personnel.

## DC Urges Public For Digital Census Participation

**VIJAYAPURA**

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Anand K. urged people to take part in the digital self-enumeration for National Census 2027, which began on April 1. He said citizens can complete the process in five minutes and must submit details before April 15. Speaking at a video meeting, he highlighted the importance of accurate data for development. People can log in using mobile OTP, mark their house, and get a reference ID. Field checks will be held from April 16 to May 15. Officials were directed to ensure full participation across departments.

## Retired Officials Get Four Years in Bribery Case

**KALABURAGI**

A court in Kalaburagi sentenced retired Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Ashok Reddy and SDA Nijaligappa Pandit to four years in jail each in a bribery case. The court also fined them 20,000 each. The accused had demanded 15,000 from PDO Sharangouda Kavital for forwarding his service records after transfer. Following a complaint, Lokayukta police trapped Nijaligappa while taking the bribe. After investigation, the court found both guilty under the Prevention of Corruption Act and delivered the judgment.

# MLA PRABHU CHAVAN VISITS BEREAVED FAMILIES IN BIDAR DISTRICT

MLA visited Badalgaon, consoled lightning victim Rahul Bhaskare's family, assured compensation, financial aid, officials present.

**BIDAR**

MLA Prabhu Chavan visited Borala and Badalgaon villages in Aurad (B) taluk on Thursday to console families who lost their loved ones in recent tragic incidents.

In Borala village, he visited the residence of Shankar Eeragonda Metre, who lost his life after a cattle shed caught fire. Expressing deep grief, the MLA said the incident was highly unfortunate and directed officials to conduct a proper inquiry. The fire reportedly destroyed more than 45 goats and stored food grains, causing significant loss to the family.

Offering condolences, Chavan prayed for the peace of the departed soul and strength for the grieving family. He assured them of all possible assistance and promised to facilitate adequate compensation from the government.

He also extended personal financial support to the family.

Later, the MLA visited Badalgaon village, where Rahul Bhaskare died after being struck by lightning while engaged in agricultural work. Consoling the family,

Chavan termed the loss of the young breadwinner as a severe blow."I stand with your family in this difficult time. Do not lose courage; I will ensure all possible support," he said, assuring that efforts would be made to secure government compensation at the earliest. He also provided personal financial assistance.

Tahsildar Mahesh Patil, local leaders including Shivajirao Patil Munganale, Yadurav Metre, Anil Narayanpur, Damodar Sherikar, Madhusudan Biradar, Janardhan Patil, Uddhav Patil,
Bajrang Pandre, Ganapati and others were present.

# Retired Employees Protest against Monetisation Act in Surpur

**YADGIRI**

Members of the State Government Retired Employees Association staged a protest in Surpur town on Thursday opposing the Monetisation Act introduced by the Central Government. The protesters gathered in front of the Tahsildar's office wearing black badges and expressed strong resentment against the legislation.

Addressing the gathering, Association President Shivappa Kattimani alleged that the 2025 Monetisation Act has come as a major setback for retired employees and their families, particularly pensioners. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the Act. He further stated that the classification of retired employees under the new law is creating inequality in the pension system, leading to hardships for pensioners across the country.

He urged the government to continue pensions as per the directions of the Supreme Court and refrain from implementing such policies that adversely affect retirees.

The leaders warned that the protest is not limited to the state but is being carried out across the country, and stronger agitations will be launched in the coming days if their demands are not met.

Retired Principal Vasudev Gange and several others also spoke on the occasion.

Later, a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister was submitted through Tahsildar Hussain Saab S. Sarkavas.

A large number of association members participated in the protest.

**Association President Shivappa Kattimani criticized the 2025Monetisation Act, demanded its withdrawal, and said it creates pension inequality, urging govt to follow SC directions and protect retirees.**

## Hanuman Jayanti Celebrated Amid Date Confusion

**VIJAYAPURA**

Hanuman Jayanti was celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm across Vijayapura district, despite confusion over whether the festival should be observed on April 1 or 2. In Adarsh Nagar of the city, special rituals were held at a Hanuman temple early in the morning. The cradle ceremony of Sri Bala Hanuman and the Janmotsava took place at 5:30 AM, followed by a kalasha and palanquin procession. A grand rathotsava was , drawing participation from a large number of devotees. In the afternoon, prasada was distributed.Devotees across the district marked the occasion with deep faith and spiritual fervour.

Many visited temples to offer prayers, while others decorated their homes and performed special rituals. Several devotees also observed fasting to seek the blessings of Lord Hanuman.

However, the celebration witnessed confusion regarding the exact date of the festival. While some temples and devotees celebrated Hanuman Jayanti on April 1, others observed it on April 2. According to astrologers, the Chaitra Purnima began at 7:06 AM on April 1 and ended at 7:41 AM on April 2. Based on this, some priests suggested that the festival should be observed on April 2. Meanwhile, others stated that as the full moon was predominantly observed on April 1, the celebrations were held a day earlier in several places.

## Police Service Challenges Highlighted, Welfare ED

**RAICHUR**

Police Flag Day was observed in Raichur city on Thursday at the District Police Parade Ground with due dignity and disciplineSpeaking on the occasion, chief guest and retired Police Sub-Inspector Basavaraj said that the police flag symbolizes discipline, dedication to duty, adherence to law, and protection. He emphasized that wherever police personnel discharge their duties, the flag represents their commitment, and it is their responsibility to uphold its honour.He noted that the day holds special significance as it commemorates the official formation of the police force in Karnataka on April 2, 1965. The celebration is being held across all district headquarters in the state to mark the occasion. He added that the flag also plays a key role in strengthening the bond between the police and the public.Basavaraj shared his own experience, stating that he joined the police department in February 1987 and served in various capacities including Police Constable (PC), Head Constable (HC), Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), and Sub-Inspector (PSI) at different police stations before retiring on February 28, 2025, from Sindhanur Town Police Station.Police service is demanding and requires strong commitment, it was stated during the programme. Officers work in harsh conditions such as heat, rain, wind, and dust, often sacrificing family time and festivals. Despite lack of proper food, water, or rest at times, they continue their duties with dedication and discipline.During 2025–26, around 227 retired police personnel received treatment under the Arogya Bhagya scheme. Financial aid of ₹9,13,812 was given to 82 retirees for medical needs, while ₹1,50,000 supported funeral expenses of 15 personnel. Facilities like welfare halls, libraries, gyms, and canteens are also available. Funds raised through Police Flag Day will support both serving and retired staff. Officials urged the public to contribute generously.

## Yatnal's Explosive Remarks Stir Political Row

**VIJAYAPURA**

Political tensions intensified ahead of the Davanagere–Bagalkot by-elections as Vijayapura City MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal made a series of controversial statements, escalating his war of words with Minister M.B. Patil.Speaking to mediapersons in Vijayapura, Yatnal responded sharply to M.B. Patil's challenge that he should defeat the BJP if he has self-respect.

Yatnal asserted that he would never beg to be included in any party and expressed confidence that the BJP itself would invite him back in the future. Making a provocative statement, Yatnal said that if he becomes Chief Minister, he would run the administration on the lines of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

He further claimed that in his first cabinet meeting, he would remove the Muslim community from the minority list and instead grant minority status to "real minorities" such as Marathas, Brahmins, and Kshatriyas. Yatnal also targeted M.B. Patil, alleging that the minister should first stop campaigning for Congress candidates before questioning others.

*PATIL ACCUSES YATNAL OF POLITICAL THEATRICS, INDIRECT BJP CAMPAIGNING, AND SEEKING ATTENTION*

# Demand to Operate Train via Hubballi–Gadag Bypass; MB Patil

**VIJAYAPURA**

Minister for Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil has urged the Central Government to introduce an express train service between Bengaluru and Vijayapura and to operate it via the Hubballi–Gadag bypass route.

In a letter dated March 30 addressed to Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Minister V. Somanna, Patil highlighted that the 9.60-km double line work between Almatti and Vandala, part of the Gadag–Hotgi railway doubling project, has been completed and opened for traffic from March 25.

Referring to earlier discussions, he stated that the completion of this bridge was a key requirement for starting an express train between Bengaluru and Vijayapura. With the work now completed, he urged the Railway Ministry to prioritise the long-pending demand.

Patil pointed out that thousands of people from Vijayapura and Bagalkot districts travel frequently to Bengaluru for education, healthcare, administration, and business purposes. The proposed train service would greatly benefit them. Currently, rail travel between the two cities takes around 15 hours, causing inconvenience to passengers. He suggested reducing the travel time to about 10 hours. He also proposed that trains departing from Bengaluru be given a scheduled halt up to Hubballi and thereafter routed towards Vijayapura via the Hubballi and Gadag bypass lines to ensure faster and more efficient connectivity.

Minister for Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil has launched a sharp attack on Vijayapura City MLA Basanagouda Yatnal, accusing him of indulging in political drama. Speaking to reporters in Vijayapura, Patil alleged that Yatnal is staging "political theatrics" by campaigning for BJP candidates in various constituencies, including Bagalkot and Davanagere. He questioned the intent behind such moves and termed them an attempt to gain political mileage.

Patil further accused Yatnal of invoking the names of senior BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa and his son for political advantage. He remarked that if Yatnal intends to associate with the BJP, he should do so openly rather than engaging in indirect campaigning. "Instead of playing political games, Yatnal should directly appeal to join the BJP," Patil said, adding that such actions indicate an effort to re-enter the party after being sidelined. The minister's remarks have added fresh political heat in the region, highlighting internal tensions and strategic manoeuvring within party lines.

FAKE HOSPITALS

# *Health Department Cracks Down on Fake Hospitals*

**RAICHUR**

In a decisive action against illegal medical practices, the Health Department, along with a district-level special task force, raided three fake hospitals in Manvi taluk of Raichur district and seized them for operating without valid authorization.

The raids were conducted in Neermanvi and Potnal villages under the leadership of Tahsildar Bheemaraya Ramasamudra and Taluk Health Officer Dr. Sharanabasavaraj Gouda. Officials inspected one hospital in Neermanvi and two in Potnal village following complaints about unauthorized medical activities. During the inspection, the team thoroughly verified essential documents such as hospital registration certificates, medical licenses, and the educational qualifications of the practitioners. The investigation revealed serious irregularities, including the absence of valid registration and unqualified individuals allegedly providing treatment to patients.

Based on these findings, authorities immediately sealed and seized the establishments to prevent further risk to public health. Officials stated that such illegal hospitals pose a significant threat to the safety and well-being of citizens, especially in rural areas where access to proper healthcare is limited.

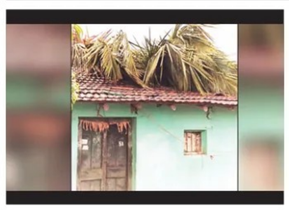
District AYUSH Officer Dr. Shankar Gouda, District Malaria Officer Dr. Chandrashekarayya Swami, Police Inspector Somashekar S. Kenchareddy, and other officials participated in the operation. Authorities have warned that strict action will continue against unauthorized medical institutions across the district.

## Cong Confident of Victory in Davanagere, Bagalkot By-Elections: Min Boseraju

**RAICHUR**

Karnataka Science and Technology and Minor Irrigation Minister N.S. Boseraju expressed confidence that Congress candidates will secure victory in the upcoming by-elections to the Davanagere and Bagalkot Assembly constituencies. Speaking to reporters in Raichur, the minister said that the Congress government has implemented several pro-people programmes and development initiatives, including its flagship guarantee schemes, which have earned the trust and support of the People. Boseraju stated that in Davanagere, the party has fielded the son of senior MLA H.Y. Meti, and expressed confidence that he would win with a comfortable margin. Similarly, he said Samartha, the grandson of veteran leader Shamanur Shivashankrappa, who is contesting from the seat vacated by his grandfather.

## QUICK READ



### Mother, son injured as coconut tree crushes house in Belagavi rain

BELAGAVI

A mother and her son were injured after a coconut tree collapsed onto their house following heavy rain and strong winds in Anigol village of the taluk.The injured have been identified as Neelavva Rudrappa Yallayyanavar (70) and Ullavappa Rudrappa Yallayyanavar (37).According to reports, the incident occurred during intense rain accompanied by strong winds, when the coconut tree fell on the roof of their house, causing injuries to both.Local residents rushed to the spot soon after the incident and shifted the injured to the Bailhongal Government Hospital for treatment. Both are said to be out of danger.

### Tragic road accident claims mother and son

MANGALURU

A devastating road accident in Moodbidri, Dakshina Kannada, resulted in the deaths of Prema Shetty (68) and her son Srinivas Shetty (30) on Tuesday evening. The duo was traveling by motorcycle toward Gantalkatte when they collided with a stationary tipper truck parked near a petrol bunk on Mahaveer College road.

Prema died instantly, while Srinivas, a daily-wage laborer, later succumbed to his injuries at a hospital. Adding to the heartbreak, the family had lost Prema's younger son in a rickshaw accident just last year. Moodbidri police have launched an investigation into the incident.

### PSI suspended in Koppal over dereliction of duty

KOPPAL

Munirabad Police Station PSI Sunil has been suspended for alleged failure in discharging administrative responsibilities.The suspension order was issued by Superintendent of Police Ram Arasiddhi.Sunil had been serving as PSI at Munirabad Police Station for the past two years. During this period, several illegal activities were reported from his jurisdiction, including parties involving foreigners, illegal stone quarrying and illegal sale of Anna Bhagya rice.

Following these developments, action has been taken against him for not properly managing administration and dereliction of duty, leading to his suspension, officials said.

# MCC imposes vehicle tax, hikes water rates, and adds waste fees

From April 1, civic body raised water charges, UGD fees, waste fees, and introduced annual vehicle tax policy

**MYSURU**

Residents of Mysuru, already grappling with the economic strain of gas shortages, are now facing a significant financial "triple blow" from the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC). The civic body has announced three major revenue-generating measures—a new vehicle tax, a steep hike in water tariffs, and a service fee for commercial waste management. These changes, aimed at easing the corporation's financial burden, are set to take effect from the current financial year.

**Underground Drainage (UGD) Fee**

This has been increased from 30% to 40% of the total water bill. Non-metered Connections: For those without water meters, flat UGD monthly charges are set at ₹100 for domestic, ₹200 for non-domestic, and ₹300 for commercial/industrial use per floor. The authorities have urged residents to install or repair functional meters immediately to avoid penalties.

**Commercial Solid Waste Management Fee**

started from the 2026-27 financial year (April 1), the MCC will implement a Solid Waste Management (SWM) service fee for all commercial establishments. Following the 2016 SWM Rules and a recent council decision on March 16, this fee will cover the costs of primary and secondary waste collection, transportation, and processing. The fee will be collected alongside trade license renewals to ensure better waste management and financial stability for the corporation.

**Commissioner Sheikh Tanveer Asif**

emphasized that these measures are inevitable for the city's growth and maintenance. However, for the common citizen, these cumulative taxes represent a heavy burden on the monthly budget.

**New Annual Vehicle Tax**

In a first-of-its-kind move under the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, the MCC will now collect an annual vehicle tax linked to the Property Identification (PID) number of each household. This tax is categorized by vehicle type:

| | |
|---|---|
| ₹100 per year | Two-wheelers |
| ₹300 per year | Three-wheelers |
| ₹500 per year | Four-wheelers (Cars and others) |

The Commissioner stated that this "infrastructure cess" is essential to fund road repairs and improve city-wide amenities.

# Shivamogga Zoo Set to Attain 'Medium-Category' Status

SHIVAMOGGA

The Tyavarekoppa Zoo in Shivamogga is on the verge of a significant milestone as it prepares to transition from its current "Small Zoo" classification to being officially recognized as a "Medium-Category" zoo. This elevation in status is a testament to the facility's rapid development, having already met the majority of the stringent criteria set forth by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA). With the final procedural steps expected to be completed by the end of the year, the zoo is poised to become a major wildlife hub in Karnataka.

According to the standards mandated by the CZA, a zoo must satisfy at least two out of three primary criteria: total land area, the total population of animals, and the diversity of species. Shivamogga Zoo has impressively surpassed expectations by meeting all three requirements. Currently, the facility houses seven endangered species, and plans are underway to further diversify its inhabitants through strategic animal exchange programs. A key agreement has been reached with the Patna Zoo, where Shivamogga will trade two male Gaurs in exchange for eight Indian Grey Wolves and four Gharials. This exchange will bring the total number of Gharials at the facility to six, significantly enhancing its reptilian conservation efforts.

In addition to the arrivals from Patna, the zoo is set to welcome Thamin Deer (Dancing Deer) and Sulfur-crested Cockatoos from the Mysuru and Bannerghatta Zoos. These additions will push the total number of species at Tyavarekoppa to fifty-six. Executive Director Amarakshar has confirmed that the CZA team is scheduled to visit for an inspection in July or August. With the Animal Collection Plan and Master Plan revisions already in full swing, the zoo is confident of receiving its official "Medium" status by the year's end.

# CNC Demands Virtual Seats Amid Delimitation Fears

**MADIKERI**

The Codava National Council (CNC) staged a significant satyagraha near the Deputy Commissioner's office in Madikeri. The demonstration, led by volunteers representing the indigenous Codava community, was organized to press the Central Government and the Election Commission for the creation of exclusive "intangible and virtual" constituencies. This urgent demand is a response to the impending 2026 delimitation exercise, which is expected to expand the Lok Sabha from 543 to 816 seats, potentially increasing Karnataka's share from 28 to 42.

Representing a mono-ethnic animistic community of roughly 70,000 to 100,000 people, the CNC is advocating for a non-territorial representative model similar to Sikkim's Sangha constituency. In such a system, only registered members of the community would vote or contest, irrespective of geographic boundaries. The council fears that a standard territorial "Codava" seat would inevitably include neighboring taluks like Sullia and Hunsur, where demographically stronger groups would eventually displace or marginalize Codava candidates.Beyond political representation, the CNC's memorandum includes several critical demands for the preservation of their cultural identity. These include Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, the inclusion of the Codava Thak language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, and the establishment of an autonomous Codava homeland under the Sixth Schedule. Additionally, they seek constitutional protection for the Gun-Thok sacrament, which involves traditional firearm customs.The protest began with a solemn oath to ancestral and natural deities, including the Sun, Moon, and Goddess Cauvery. Leaders emphasized that since Kodagu ceased to be a Part-C state in 1956, the community's political influence has steadily diminished. They also demanded a separate enumeration in the 2027 Census, noting that Codavas were recognized as a distinct race in official records from 1871 until 1931. By securing these protections now, the CNC aims to ensure that numerically small indigenous groups are not permanently sidelined by the nation's shifting parliamentary architecture.

# Udupi Set to Achieve "Fully Literate" Status

**UDUPI**

Udupi district is on the verge of being declared fully literate following a successful adult education campaign launched last year. According to reports, the district has surpassed the Central government's 95% literacy threshold, which is functionally equivalent to 100% literacy for official recognition.

The achievement stems from a focused initiative where 1,246 illiterate adults were enrolled in special four-month courses. Using tailored textbooks like 'Balige Belaku' and 'Savi Baraha', the program imparted essential reading, writing, and arithmetic skills to elderly individuals and those who missed formal schooling.

While five taluks have already submitted their declarations, Udupi and Kundapur are expected to follow shortly. This milestone marks a significant leap from just eight months ago, when 45 gram panchayats were still working toward this goal.

# Outsourced Workers Left Without Pay for a Year

**RAICHUR**

The government hospitals in Raichur district are currently facing a severe humanitarian crisis as hundreds of outsourced employees have been forced to work without regular salaries for over a year. Approximately 245 workers, including Group D staff, sanitation workers, data entry operators, lab technicians, and pharmacists, are struggling to sustain their livelihoods. This systemic failure has pushed many families to the brink of starvation, creating an ironic situation where those dedicated to saving lives are now struggling for their own survival.

The situation is further complicated by the frequent shifting of recruitment agencies. Responsibility has moved from ARC Agency to Mysore-based Swiss Agency and currently to Ballari-based Popular Agency, yet the fundamental issue of pending wages remains unresolved. Employees allege that whenever they approach the District Health Officer (DHO), they are met with the repeated excuse of a lack of budget. The desperation reached a tipping point recently when a distraught worker threatened self-harm in front of the DHO office.

Beyond the financial strain, a climate of fear prevails. Many workers lack official appointment orders, making them vulnerable to exploitation. There is a deep-seated apprehension that demanding their rightful pay or questioning the lack of documentation will lead to immediate termination. Local activists and labor unions are now demanding immediate government intervention to hold the agencies accountable and release the long-overdue payments.

# Bommai Slams Karnataka Govt Over "Tax Terrorism" and "Transfer Mafia

**DAVANAGERE**

The political atmosphere in the Davanagere South Assembly by-election reached a fever pitch as former Chief Minister and Haveri BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai launched a scathing attack against the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government. Campaigning for BJP candidate Srinivas Das Kariyappa on March 31, 2026, Bommai addressed a packed press conference where he accused the state administration of unleashing "Tax Terrorism" on the citizens of Karnataka. He alleged that within just three years, the government has imposed a staggering ₹60,000 crore in new taxes, including frequent hikes in excise duty, milk prices, electricity tariffs, stamp duty, and motor vehicle taxes, significantly increasing the cost of living for the common man.Bommai further labeled Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as a "record-holding debtor," claiming the state has borrowed over ₹5 lakh crore under his current tenure alone. Beyond the fiscal strain, the former CM painted a grim picture of systemic corruption, describing government transfers as a thriving "business industry" rather than an administrative process. He asserted that no official position remains secure regardless of the bribes paid, leading to a total collapse of the administrative machinery. From rural land conversions requiring lakhs in kickbacks to alleged irregularities in the distribution of rationed rice and hospital management,Bommai claimed that corruption now originates directly from the ministerial and CMO offices.

# South India's First Penguin Park at Karanji Lake: Mysuru Set for a Major Wildlife Attraction

**MYSURU**

Mysuru is currently preparing to host a landmark conservation project as the state government initiates the development of South India's very first Penguin Park at the scenic Karanji Lake. This ambitious venture has recently moved into the phase of drafting a Detailed Project Report, marking a significant step toward placing Karnataka on the global map for specialized avian care. Once established, this facility will be only the third of its kind in India, joining the prestigious ranks of Mumbai and Ahmedabad in housing these charismatic flightless birds.

The choice of Karanji Lake is strategically significant, as the area is already a beloved destination for bird watchers and boating enthusiasts. Located just four kilometers from the city center, the lake shares a direct connection with the world-famous Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens. By integrating a world-class penguin exhibit into this ecosystem, the Forest Department expects a massive surge in tourist footfalls, which will substantially boost the annual revenue of the Mysuru Zoo and the local hospitality industry.

However, building a home for penguins in a tropical climate presents unique technical challenges that require a high degree of specialization. The Forest Department is currently on an intensive search for a team of experts with proven experience in aquatic bird habitats. These specialists are needed to design sophisticated life-support systems, including twenty-four-hour climate control, advanced water filtration, and specialized freezers to maintain the sub-zero or temperate conditions required by different penguin species. While species like the African penguin can adapt to more temperate zones, the facility must ensure a fail-safe power and maintenance system to guarantee the safety and well-being of these animals around the clock.

**PETROL-FREE STRUGGLE**

# *LPG Crisis in Hubballi-Dharwad: Auto Drivers Face Crisis*

**HUBBALLI**

The twin cities of Hubballi and Dharwad are facing a severe crisis as over 25,000 auto-rickshaw drivers struggle amid a critical shortage and soaring prices of Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG). A routine that once ensured daily earnings has turned into a desperate fight for survival.

The root of the problem lies in global conflicts, particularly ongoing wars in the Middle East, which have disrupted international LPG supply chains. This disruption has had a massive ripple effect on the local market, creating a scarcity of both commercial and domestic LPG cylinders. Key challenges include wasted hours in queues, as drivers spend three to four hours daily waiting at gas stations—time they could otherwise use to transport passengers and earn a living. Unpredictable pricing adds to their woes, with LPG prices previously ranging from ₹58–₹65 per liter now surging to ₹80–₹100 per liter. Price disparities between fuel stations, depending on their suppliers, force drivers to seek cheaper options, which often run out quickly, further aggravating the crisis. For the region's 25,000 drivers, the combination of high fuel costs and lost working hours has drastically reduced daily net income. Many are left struggling to make ends meet, with some barely able to cover operational expenses. Without immediate government intervention to stabilize prices and ensure consistent supply, the local transport system—vital to the daily functioning of the twin cities—faces the risk of a complete breakdown, threatening both livelihoods and urban mobility.

## QUICK READ

### Seven students seriously injured as car climbs on divider

**BANTWAL**

Seven students sustained serious injuries in an accident that reportedly occurred in Maripalla near Farangipet in the taluk as the driver of the car lost control and climbed onto a road divider before hitting a power pole installed on the divider. The accident is said to have occurred shortly. The injured students, including four girls and three boys, are reportedly from Udupi. They were traveling Mangaluru to BC Road on the National Highway when the driver lost control over the vehicle, resulting in the accident. The car reportedly hit the power pole, dragged it along for a distance and then overturned on the road. Eyewitnesses have said that the overturned car was lifted and injured students were immediately taken to the Fr. Muller Hospital in Thumday with the help of locals. Police officers have visited the accident site and also took further action.

### BJP Leaders Attend Grand Brahma Rathotsava

**SHIVAMOGGA**

The traditional Brahma Rathotsava (chariot festival) of Sri Hucharaya Swamy, the beloved deity of the people of Shikaripura, was held with great fervor on April 2.

B Y Raghavendra, BJP MP from Shivamogga, shared moments from the grand occasion. He was joined by senior leader and former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, Shikaripura MLA and Karnataka BJP President B Y Vijayendra, along with other family members.

The leaders participated in the rituals, took darshan of the deity, and offered prayers. A large gathering of thousands of devotees witnessed the colorful chariot procession, which highlighted the cultural richness of the region amid chants of devotion.During the event, special pooja was performed for the chariot. Prayers were offered for the well-being of all people and for peace, prosperity, and happiness to prevail across the state.

### Man Assaulted in Bar Over Money Dispute in Kokkada Village

**BELTANGADY**

A man was allegedly assaulted and threatened with death over a financial dispute inside a bar and restaurant in Kokkada village under Beltangady taluk.According to the complaint filed by the victim, Akshay (31), a resident of Kokkada village, he was sitting and consuming alcohol at the Kokkada Bar & Restaurant on the night of March 29, 2026, when the accused, Yatheesh, arrived at the spot and picked up an argument with him regarding money matters. The complaint states that Yatheesh abused Akshay in filthy language and physically assaulted him. Later, other accused persons — Dhanush Bhandary, Sharath Bhandary, and Praveen — allegedly joined Yatheesh and together they assaulted the victim, used abusive words, and issued life threats.

# Summer Challenges for Forest Dept: Wildfire Threats Loom Over

As summer temperatures soar in Chamarajanagar district, forest officials are on high alert as the risk of wildfires rises sharply

**CHAMARAJANAGAR**

As the scorching summer heat intensifies, the sprawling forest regions of Chamarajanagar district are facing a severe threat of wildfires. Protecting these ecologically sensitive zones has become a daunting "litmus test" for the Forest Department. The primary challenge lies in monitoring vast terrains to prevent miscreants from intentionally setting fires and responding rapidly to outbreaks before they spiral out of control.

**The Vulnerable Landscape**

Chamarajanagar is home to some of India's most prestigious wildlife habitats, including Bandipur National Park, Biligirirangana Hills (BRT) Tiger Reserve, Male Mahadeshwara Hills (MM Hills), and the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

**PROACTIVE MEASURES AND STRATEGIC DEPLOYMENTS**

**To combat these threats, the Forest Department has implemented several strategies:**

- **Fire Lines:** Creating cleared paths or "fire lines" to prevent flames from jumping between forest patches.
- **Watchtowers & Patrols:** Intensified surveillance in sensitive zones to deter vandals and monitor heat signatures.
- **Additional Personnel:** Creating Hiring local tribal youths and villagers on an outsourced basis. Their intimate knowledge of the terrain allows for immediate detection and faster response to smoke or fire.

**The Need for Monsoon Reliefe**

While human efforts are ongoing, the department is anxiously awaiting the arrival of pre-monsoon showers. Currently, water sources within Bandipur (1,100 sq. km) and MM Hills (906 sq. km) are depleting. Frequent rains would not only mitigate the fire risk by moistening the dry foliage but also replenish watering holes for wildlife. Without significant rainfall, the department faces a dual crisis of managing potential infernos and ensuring water security for the district's majestic tigers and elephants.

# 'Samarth Will Follow in the Footsteps of Ajatashatru'

**DAVANAGERE**

In a heartfelt campaign for the upcoming Davanagere South Assembly by-election, Member of Parliament Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun asserted that Congress candidate Samarth Shamanur is dedicated to continuing the legacy of his grandfather, the late veteran leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa.

Addressing a gathering at K.B. Extension, Dr. Prabha emphasized that the people are ready to vote with high expectations. She described the late "Appaji" (Shamanur Shivashankarappa) as an Ajatashatru—a leader with no enemies—who treated everyone equally regardless of caste, creed, or political affiliation. She assured voters that Samarth, having witnessed his grandfather's six terms of service firsthand, possesses the same commitment to inclusive development.

- **Legacy and Transition Dr.;** Prabha noted that the by-election was necessitated by the passing of Shamanur Shivashankarappa (who passed away in December 2025). She stated that the party has entrusted Samarth to effectively manage the remaining two years of the current term.
- **The Power of Five Guarantees;**Highlighting the Congress government's achievements, she stated that the Five Guarantee schemes have significantly eased the lives of the poor, helping them manage the rising costs of daily essentials.
- **Candidate's Connection:** She remarked that Samarth has a natural rapport with the people. During his door-to-door visits, citizens have been openly sharing their concerns, viewing him as a leader who truly understands their struggles.
- **Appeal to Voters:** Dr. Prabha urged the residents of Davanagere South to elect Samarth with a resounding majority, defining a "good politician" as one who responds sincerely to the difficulties of the common man.

Following the campaign rally, Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun visited the Sri Guru Raghavendra Swamy Mutt on Dikshit Road to offer prayers. The event saw a large turnout of party leaders, workers, and supporters, signaling a high-energy start to the Congress campaign in the constituency.

# Forest Department Clearance Delays Charmadi Ghat Expansion Project

**BELTHANGADY**

The highly anticipated upgrade of the Charmadi Ghat section on National Highway 73 is facing a significant roadblock as the Forest Department has yet to grant environmental clearance. This delay means that the project is unlikely to commence before the onset of the 2026 monsoon season, potentially pushing the timeline back by several months. The Central Government has earmarked ₹343 crore to widen an 11-km stretch within the Dakshina Kannada district limits to a width of 10 meters, with SLV Construction Company securing the contract.The primary hurdle lies in the environmental sensitivity of the region. The expansion requires the

felling of numerous trees and a detailed study of wildlife movement patterns to ensure that the construction does not disrupt the local ecosystem. Furthermore, the National Highway Department must provide revenue land for compensatory afforestation, a process that is currently pending approval from both state and central forest authorities. Soil testing and specific wildlife protection plans are also mandatory before any heavy machinery can move into the Ghats.Logistically, the project faces a race against time. With pre-monsoon showers expected in April and May, followed by heavy rains in June, executing large-scale hill cutting and road widening becomes nearly impossible and dangerous in the Ghat region. Additionally, the connecting Punjalkatte-Charmadi road work has been ongoing for over two years and is still nearing completion. Starting work on the narrow Ghat section before the connecting road is fully ready would cause immense hardship for commuters. Questions also remain regarding whether vehicle movement—currently restricted to six-wheeled vehicles—will be completely banned during the construction phase, leaving travelers in a state of uncertainty.

# Police Flag Day Celebrated with Pride in Bidar

**BIDAR**

The Police Flag Day celebration for 2026 was held with great discipline and dignity at the District Police Parade Ground in Bidar. The event was organized by the Bidar District Police in the presence of the Superintendent of Police, senior officials, and other dignitaries. All police officers and personnel participated in the programme with enthusiasm, reflecting unity and commitment within the force. The celebration commenced with the arrival of the chief guests, followed by a guard of honour and inspection of the parade.

# Police Must Instil Fear Among Criminals, Build Public Trust: Commissioner

**MANGALURU**

Emphasising the need for a proactive and disciplined police force, Mangaluru Police Commissioner Sudhir Kumar Reddy on Wednesday said that effective policing should create fear among criminals while reinforcing public confidence in law enforcement.

He was speaking at the Karnataka State Police Flag Day and Welfare Day celebrations held in the city, jointly organised by Mangaluru City Police, Dakshina Kannada District Police, the Special Task Force, and the 7th Battalion of KSRP.

The Commissioner noted

that crime can be controlled efficiently if police personnel develop a strong sense of duty and remain constantly vigilant. He urged officers to build exemplary character, prevent untoward incidents through continuous monitoring, and stay prepared to respond to any situation. "Police work should ensure that offenders are caught, thereby instilling fear among criminals and trust among the public," he said. Highlighting improvements within the force, he observed that the Karnataka Police now have better facilities compared to many other states, reflecting significant progress in recent years.

Chief guest and retired Inspector Mohan Kottari stressed the importance of officers having a thorough understanding of local laws and language. He advised police personnel to discharge their duties without yielding to political pressure and cautioned that minor issues, if neglected, could escalate into major law and order challenges.

# Government Bus Overturns Near Chikkamagaluru: 8 Injured on Way to Dharmasthala

**CHIKKAMAGALURU**

A major accident was narrowly averted near Chikkamagaluru when a state government bus (Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation) traveling from Kuknoor to Dharmasthala overturned, leaving eight passengers injured. The incident occurred near Kodal in Chikkamagaluru taluk when the bus reportedly collided with an electric pole before flipping over.

At the time of the accident, more than 40 passengers were on board, most of whom were pilgrims heading to the temple town of Dharmasthala. Fortunately, despite the severity of the crash, no fatalities were reported, and the majority of the passengers escaped with minor bruises. The eight

injured individuals were immediately rushed to the Chikkamagaluru District Hospital for medical treatment and are reported to be stable.

The exact cause of the accident remains unclear. Authorities are investigating whether the crash was triggered by a technical failure, poor vehicle maintenance, or if the driver lost control due to overspeeding on the winding roads of the region. Local residents who witnessed the crash assisted in the initial rescue efforts before emergency services arrived.

A case has been registered at the Chikkamagaluru Rural Police Station. While the investigation continues, the incident highlights ongoing concerns regarding the safety and maintenance of long-distance state transport buses operating in hilly terrains. For now, the focus remains on the recovery of the injured and ensuring the safe onward travel of the remaining passengers.

# 5% Property Tax Rebate Announced for Early Payers in Mandya District

**MANDYA**

Taxpayers under urban local bodies have received a welcome relief, as the state government has announced a 5 percent rebate on property tax for the current financial year. The benefit applies to residential, commercial, and industrial properties falling under eight urban local bodies in Mandya district.

This concession is available only to those who pay their property tax under the self-assessment scheme before the end of April. Officials have encouraged property owners to take advantage of this limited-time rebate to reduce their financial burden.

The move comes even as revised property tax rates have increased the overall payable amount. The rebate is expected to ease some of the additional burden caused by the revision. Authorities clarified that tax-

payers who make payments in May and June will not face penalties, but they will have to pay the full tax amount without any discount.

However, from July onwards, a penalty of 2 percent per month will be imposed on unpaid property tax. Delays extending up to a year could result in a cumulative penalty of 18 percent, officials warned.

Property tax is a key source of revenue for urban local bodies, helping fund development projects and improve civic infrastructure. Authorities have urged citizens to pay early, benefit from the rebate, and contribute to the growth and maintenance of their cities.

# *West Asia conflict hits Shivamogga foundries, shutdown fears loom*

**SHIVAMOGGA**

Ongoing tensions in West Asia have begun to severely impact foundry and allied industries in Shivamogga, with industrialists warning of possible temporary closures if disruptions persist.

Medium-scale units in the Machenahalli Industrial Area, a hub for metal casting, are grappling with acute shortages of key raw materials and rising logistics costs. The cluster comprises around 120 units, employing nearly 8,000 workers directly, with about 12,000 families dependent on the sector.

Industrialists say supply chains have been disrupted, particularly for essential inputs such as resin, alcohol-based refractory coatings, sleeves and filters used in moulding processes. "We are managing with existing stock, but suppliers are unable to as-

sure quantities. Prices have also increased sharply," said industry representatives, adding that operations may be halted if the situation continues for a few more weeks.

Production has already taken a hit. Some units reported a drop of nearly 20% in output over the past month, affecting export commitments to markets such as the United States, Europe and Australia. Exporters are also facing a shortage of containers, along with a spike in freight and insurance costs.

The crisis has been compounded by a shortage of LPG and petroleum products, which are critical for both manufacturing processes and worker facilities. Several industries were forced to suspend canteen services temporarily due to the unavailability of commercial LPG cylinders, highlighting the severity of the disruption.Industry bodies have approached district authorities seeking immediate intervention to ensure steady supply of LPG and other essentials. They warned that prolonged disruptions could not only halt production but also impact livelihoods on a large scale.

# State Police Flag Day and Welfare Programme Held

**MANGALURU**

The Karnataka State Police Flag Day and Welfare Day was observed with enthusiasm and solemnity at the District DAR Police Parade Ground here.

The event was jointly organised under the aegis of Mangaluru City Police, Dakshina Kannada District Police, Special Task Force Unit, and the 7th Battalion of KSRP Mangaluru Unit.

Retired Police Inspector Mohan Kottari, who was the chief guest, addressed the gathering and emphasised the need for police personnel to develop an exemplary character.

He stressed that it is the department's responsibility to remain vigilant to prevent untoward incidents and to stay prepared to face any such events if they occur.

QUICK READ

## Wild elephants enter Anekal villages at night, residents worried

**Bengaluru**

Wild elephants are venturing out of the forest and into villages, causing concern among residents. A herd of elephants was spotted in Sonuvara and Choodenahalli villages near Anekal. The elephants roamed the streets, frightening the villagers, who immediately informed Forest officials. The Forest department was working to drive the elephants back into the forest. Residents are worried, as this has become a regular occurrence, with elephants entering villages at night. They criticised the Forest department for not taking adequate measures to prevent elephants from venturing into human habitation.

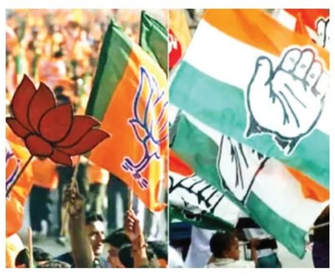
# Student Voter Controversy in Bagalkot: Conflict Escalates Between BJP and Cong

## Student Voter Row Escalates in Bagalkot Ahead of By-Poll

**BENGALURU**

The electoral atmosphere in the Bagalkot Assembly constituency is intensifying as a heated dispute over student voters has become a central point of contention between the Congress and BJP. With the April 9, 2026, by-election approaching—necessitated by the passing of former Minister H.Y. Meti—both parties are trading sharp accusations regarding the legitimacy of student enrollments in the local voters' list.

The BJP has dismissed these claims as a sign of Congress's "fear of defeat." Former Deputy CM and MP Govind Karjol issued a bold challenge to Congress leaders: Defending Student Rights: Karjol argued that any student living in Bagalkot for 5 to 10 years has a legal right to vote there if they provide valid address proof and an Aadhaar card. Challenge to Government: He challenged Congress in-charge Randeep Surjewala and D.K. Shivakumar to "arrest the students today if they have the guts,"



calling their statements a threat to democracy. Accusations of Intimidation: The BJP countered by alleging that Congress is using ASHA workers and teachers to threaten citizens that their "Five Guarantees" will be canceled if they don't vote for Congress.

The Current Situation: The battle is primarily between Umesh Hullappa Meti of the Congress and Veeranna Charantimath of the BJP. While the Congress frames the issue as a "voter list manipulation" by outsiders, the BJP maintains that students are legitimate residents of the city. As both sides dig in their heels, the Election Commission's role in verifying the "one person, one vote" rule has become the most critical factor in this high-stakes by-poll.

### Congress Allegations: Dual Votes and Threat of Arrest

**Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has raised serious concerns about students who have moved to Bagalkot for their studies. He alleges that**

- Dual Enrollment: Many students are registered as voters in both their hometowns and in Bagalkot wards.
- Coercion Tactics: He accused the BJP of threatening these students, claiming they are told they will "fail" or face trouble if they do not vote for the saffron party.
- Legal Action: The Congress has formed a dedicated team to identify individuals with dual voter IDs. Shivakumar warned that the party is consulting legal experts to see if such students can be arrested and has instructed leaders to file a formal complaint with the District Collector.

## Precautions to Stay Healthy During Summer

**Chikkaballapur**

With rising temperatures this summer, the district health authorities have advised the public to take precautions to protect their health.

**Do's:** Wear loose, light-colored cotton clothes, drink water regularly (including buttermilk, tender coconut water, fresh fruit juices), eat easily digestible homemade food, consume vegetables like bottle gourd and pumpkin, and fruits like oranges. Wash hands before meals, use umbrellas, hats, or towels to protect from sun, wear sunglasses, and rest in shade between 12 pm–4 pm.

**Don't:** Wear tight or synthetic clothes, consume coffee, tea, alcohol, or sugary drinks, eat roadside food, use ice-cold water excessively, drink impure water, or engage in heavy physical work under

## Falling Vegetable Prices Hit Kolar Farmers Amid Middle East Conflict

**KOLAR**

Due to the Israel-Iran conflict, commercial LPG cylinders are in short supply, leaving hotel owners struggling to prepare several menu items. Consequently, their vegetable purchases have dropped significantly, causing a decline in market prices and putting local farmers under financial strain.

With the summer heat intensifying and festivals like Ugadi and Ramadan recently concluding, vegetable demand has further diminished, leading to additional price drops. The extreme heat has also reduced the number of buyers visiting local markets, compounding the problem for producers.

At the Kolar APMC market, prices for most vegetables, including tomatoes, have fallen noticeably. Retail markets and roadside vendors are selling vegetables such as tomatoes, capsicum, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, green chilies, and onions at rates as low as ₹10–₹20 per kilogram. For instance, a 15 kg box of tomatoes is auctioned around ₹200, giving farmers only ₹10–15 per kg. High-quality boxes may fetch up to ₹250, but retail sales of 5–7 kg boxes go for just ₹100.

Sambar squash, which would normally fetch higher prices for temple offerings, hotels, weddings, and other events, is selling at just ₹4 per kg. Farmers are leaving much of it to rot in their fields because the low demand and LPG shortage have made processing and selling unprofitable. With limited supply reaching markets and extreme heat spoiling produce quickly, traders expect vegetable prices to remain low for another month or two, further impacting farmers' livelihoods.

## Green Mobility Under Fire: BJP Slams Karnataka's New EV Tax as a Move to Tax the Future

**BENGALURU**

The Karnataka BJP has launched a scathing attack on the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government following the passage of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2026. This new legislation effectively ends the long-standing tax exemptions previously enjoyed by battery-operated four-wheelers, including electric cars, jeeps, and private omnibuses. The move has sparked a heated political row over the state's green energy transition, with opposition leaders claiming that the government is prioritizing short-term revenue collection over environmental sustainability and middle-class affordability.

Under the revised tax structure, the state has transitioned from a selective tax system to a comprehensive lifetime tax based on the vehicle's cost. Electric vehicles priced up to ten lakh rupees will now attract a five percent tax, while those priced between ten lakh and twenty-five lakh rupees will be taxed at eight percent. Vehicles exceeding the twenty-five lakh mark will continue to attract a ten percent tax. While electric two-wheelers remain exempt for now, the middle-class segment of the four-wheeler market faces a significant new financial burden that was previously non-existent as part of the state's push for cleaner mobility.

State BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra has been particularly vocal in his criticism, accusing the administration of sacrificing Karnataka's hard-earned momentum in the electric mobility sector to fund its own political failures. Taking to social media, he argued that years of tax support had positioned Karnataka as a serious player in India's EV ecosystem, encouraging investment and consumer confidence.

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**IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA**
**CMis.No.1109/2025**

**Petitioner: Smt.Jayamma** D/o Late Doddagangaiah @ Gangaiah Aged about 63 years, R/at Kuluvanahalli Village, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

V/S

**Respondent :** Registrar of Birth and death, The Tahshildar, Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the father of petitioner by name **LATE DODDAGANGAIAH @ GANGAIAH S/O LATE SIDDAIAH** who died on 10.08.1988 at Vaddarapalya Majara Rampura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 13.5.2026. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 1st day of April 2026.

**By Order of the Court**
**Chief Ministeral Officer**
Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura

**Advocate : Gangaiah,** Opp to Court Road, 4th Ward, 5th Cross, Doddaballapur Town

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**IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA**
**CMis, No.1189/2025**

**Petitioner : Sri.Hanumantharayappa** S/o Late Mallanna Aged about 45 years, R/at Tanneranahalli Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

**V/s**

**Respondent :** Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Grandfather of petitioner by name **LATE HANUMANTHAIAH @ GOLLALLAIAH S/O LATE KARETHIMMAIAH** who died on 25.09.1930 at Tanneranahalli Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 13.5.2026. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 1st day of April 2026.

**By Order of the Court**
**Chief Ministeral Officer**
Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura

**Advocate : Gangaiah,** Opp to Court Road, 4th Ward, 5th Cross, Doddaballapur Town

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**IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA**
**CMis.No. 1110/2025**

**Petitioner: Smt. Jayamma** D/o Late Doddagangaiah @ Gangaiah Aged about 63 years, R/at Kuluvanahalli Village, Thyamagondlu Hobli. Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. V/S

**Respondent :** Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the mother of petitioner by name **LATE SIDDAMMA W/O LATE DODDAGANGAIAH @ GANGAIAH** who died on 12.10.2012 at Vaddarapalya Majara Rampura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 13.5.2026. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 1st day of April 2026.

**By Order of the Court**
**Chief Ministeral Officer**
Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura

**Advocate : Gangaiah,** Opp to Court Road, 4th Ward, 5th Cross, Doddaballapur Town

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, NARENDER G S/o GOUTHAM CHAND P, R/o 136, Opp Sri Rama Hospital, Marathahalli, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560037, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NITIN SETHIYA.

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **J Sandhya Rani** W/o S Yang ama Raju, R/o #204/2A/2, Kelagira Thota, Near Bypass, Chickballapur, My husband name has been changed from **Yangama Raju** to **S Yangama Raju** before notary KH Venkatappa on 01-04-2026.

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

It is for general information that I, J.VISHALINI, D/o late P JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN, Ex. W/o Y. A. SUBRAMANYA, R/o 1854, 10th Main 33rd Cross, Banashankari II Stage, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560070, declare that I got divorce from my husband vide Court Decree No. M.C.No. 1980/2003 dt. 16.08.2005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NIRMALA JAYAPRAKASH.

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, PAVITRA GONEMMANAVAR D/o YALLAPPA, W/o PRAVEEN, R/o 00, Sambhapur, Hatalgeri, Gadag, Karnataka-582115, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUMATI DODDAMANI.

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**NAME CHANGE**

I, **SAIYED KASHIF HUSSAIN**, Residing at No. 200, 1st Main Road, Defence Layout, Vidyaranyapura Bengaluru-560097, have changed my Minor Son's name from **TAMEEM YAHYA SAIYED to SAIYED TAMEEM YAHYA**, vide affidavit dated: 28.03.2026, before Notary G.DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

It is for general information that I, MUDDAPPA C P S/o PONNAPPA C B, R/o 11 Raja Rajeshwari Nilaya, R M P R Layout, Near Vinayaka Enclave, Belavadi, Mysore, Mysuru, Karnataka-570018, declare that the name of my wife have been wrongly written as C M BABITHA in my PPO No-240550528382. The actual name of my wife is BABITHA N M, which may be amended accordingly.

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**IN THE COURTOF THR HON'BLE I-ADDL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT KGF**
**CMC NO.50/2026**

**PETITIONERS: Smt.Muniyamma & others**
**RESPONDENT: The Tahsildar KGF taluk**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby informed that One **(P1) Smt. Muniyamma,** W/o Late Betappa, Aged about 75 years **(2) Smt. Mangamma,** W/o Sri Venkatamuniyappa, D/o Late Betappa, Aged about 47 years, Residing at Yethur Village, Srinivasasandra Post, KGF Taluk-563121, **(3) Sri. B. Narayana,** S/o Late Betappa Aged about 52 years, **(4) Sri. Seenappa,** S/o Late Betappa Aged about 50 years, Residing at #1-190. Sanganapalli Village. Gudupalli Mandal, Chitoor District-517 425 **(5) Smt. Subbamma** W/o Sri. Kempaiah, D/o Late Betappa Aged about 43 years Residing at Naganahalli Balamande. Kolar, **(6) Sri. Shankarappa,** S/o Late. Byatappa, Aged about 42 years, **(7) Sri. Subramani,** S/o Late. Byatappa, Aged about 37 years, petitioner No. 1, 3,6 &7 are residing at Doddagandlahalli Village, Srinivasasandra Post, KGF Taluk, being the Petitioners have filed a Petition seeking Death Certificate of Sri Betappa being the Husband of the 1st Petitioner and Father of No. 2 to 7 died on 10-03-2018 at Doddagandlahalli Village, Srinivasasandra Post, KGF Taluk.

The hearing date of the case is posted on 22/05/2026 if any person having any claim or objection has to appear before this Hon'ble court in person or by pleader in the above case said hearing date at about 11 AM to answer the same failing which the petition would be disposed off as Ex Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on this 17/3/2026.

**BY THE ORDER OF THE COURT**
**SHERISTEDAR, HON'BLE PRL. CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC COURT, KGF**

Advocate for petitioners
**N Shiva Shankar,** B.A., LLB., KAR2236/2022, Swayambhu Law Associates, Opp, Mini Vidhana soudha 1st cross Dr.B.R.ambedkar Nagar JJ Complex Robersonpet KGF-563122, Place: KGF, Date: 17.03.2026

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**IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA**
**CMis.No.1108/2025**

**Petitioner: SmJayamma** D/o Late Doddagangaiah @ Gangaiah Aged about 63 years, R/at Kuluvanahalli Village, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

V/s

**Respondent :** Registrar of Birth and death, The Tahshildar, Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the brother of petitioner by name **LATE GOVINDAIAH S/O LATE DODDAGANGAIAH @ GANGAIAH** who died on 10.12.2014 at Vaddarapalya Majara Rampura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in 14.5.2026 person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 2nd day of April 2026.

**By Order of the Court**
**Chief Ministeral Officer**
Prl Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura

**Advocate : Gangaiah,** Opp to Court Road, 4th Ward, 5th Cross, Doddaballapur Town

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**IN THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT CHICKBALLAPUR**
**Crl. Misc. No. 02/2026**

**PETITIONERS: 1. Sri. Dodda Narasimhaiah** S/o late Dodda Gangappa, Aged about 65 years, **2. Smt. Munirathnamma,** W/o late Narayanaswamy, Aged about 55 years, **3. Sri. G.D. Lakshminarasimhaiah** S/o late Dodda Gangappa, Aged about 58 years, **4. Sri. Gangadharappa** S/o late Chikka Gangappa, Aged about 65 years, **5. Sri. Krishnappa** S/o late Chikka Gangappa, Aged about 51 years, **6. Sri. Srinivasa** S/o late Chikka Gangappa, Aged about 46 years, All are residing at Gurukulanagenahalli Village, Nandi Hobli, Chickballapur Taluk.

**V/s**

**RESPONDENT :** The Registrar of Birth & Death, The Tahasildar, Chickballapur Taluk.

**DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION**

The petitioners have filed this petition for grant of death certificate of grandfather of the petitioners by name **Dodda Sallappa S/o late Kalasathyappa died on 03-06-1980 at Gurukulanagenahalli Village, Nandi Hobli, Chickballapur Taluk.** The respondent has given non availability certificate in respect of death of **Dodda Sallappa.**

If any persons have any objections regarding the issue of death certificate, they can appear before the Hon'ble Court in person or duly instructed by his advocate on 7-4-2026 at 11 'O' clock. If they failed to appear, the Hon'ble Court has proceed and decide the matter according to law.

Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 24th Day of February 2026.

**By Order of the Court**
**Chief Ministerial Officer**
Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Chickballapur-562101

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**IN THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT CHICKBALLAPUR**
**Crl. Misc. No. 01/2026**

**PETITIONERS : 1. Sri. Dodda Narasimhaiah** S/o late Dodda Gangappa, Aged about 65 years, **2. Smt. Munirathnamma** W/o late Narayanaswamy, Aged about 55 years, **3. Sri. G.D. Lakshminarasimhaiah** S/o late Dodda Gangappa, Aged about 58 years, **4. Sri. Gangadharappa** S/o late Chikka Gangappa, Aged about 65 years, **5. Sri. Krishnappa** S/o late Chikka Gangappa, Aged about 51 years, **6. Sri. Srinivasa** S/o late Chikka Gangappa, Aged about 46 years, All are residing at Gurukulanagenahalli Village, Nandi Hobli, Chickballapur Taluk.

V/s

**RESPONDENT :** The Registrar of Birth & Death, The Tahasildar, Chickballapur Taluk.

**DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION**

The petitioners have filed this petition for grant of death certificate of grandmother of the petitioners by name **Dasamma, W/o late Dodda Sallappa, died on 08/05/1985 at Gurukulanagenahalli Village, Nandi Hobli, Chickballapur Taluk.** The respondent has given non availability certificate in respect of death of **Dasamma.**

If any persons have any objections regarding the issue of death certificate, they can appear before the Hon'ble Court in person or duly instructed by his advocate on 7-4-2026 at 11 'O'clock. If they failed to appear, the Hon'ble Court has proceed and decide the matter according to law.

Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 24th Day of February 2026

**By Order of the Court**
**Chief Ministerial Officer**
Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Chickballapur-562101

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**KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED**
**(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)**

**Office of the Executive Engineer**
**Varahi Project Division**
**siddapura, Udupi District-576229**

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ವಾರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಸಿದ್ದಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. 576229

**e mail: eevpzone@gmail.com**

ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಕನೀನಿ/ವಾಯೋವಿ/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/14/2025-26/1776 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26/03/2026

**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**
(ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ) (Two tender Document System)

ವಾರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಡಿ ಬರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ವಿವರಗಳು ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ

1. ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 117.59 ಮತ್ತು 16.09 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು
2. ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31/03/2026.
3. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04/04/2026
4. ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08/04/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
5. ಟೆಂಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09/04/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.15 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
6. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ, ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಅಥವಾ ಇತರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಕನೀನಿ, ವಾರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಸಿದ್ದಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

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**The Mysore Paper Mills Ltd.**

Forest Department, Paper Town, Bhadravati – 577 302, Karnataka CIN: L99999KA1936SGC000173 (03.06.2014)

Tel: +91-8282-270094 +91-8282-270937

Email: dirforestsmpm@gmail.com

E-Tender No.: MPM/FFR/DF/TA/25-26/015-Call-2 Dated: 27.03.2026

**Brief E-Tender Notice**

E-Tender No.: MPM/FFR/DF/TA/25-26/015-Call-2 Dated: 23.02.2026 **Work Details:** Construction works of tree plantation/ reforestation groves for the year 2026 and maintenance work for the years 2025 & 2024 **Last Date for Submission:** 13.04. 2026 at 5.00 PM **Opening Date:** 16.04.2026 at 11.00 AM

Tenders are invited through the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for construction of tree plantation/reforestation groves for the year 2026 and maintenance work for the years 2025 & 2024 in the forests of MPM. Tender documents are available for download from the e-procurement portal and the MPM website from 27.03.2026. Tenderers who are not registered on the e-Procurement Portal may register and participate in the tender. Any changes/amendments to the said tender, if any, will be published only on the e-Procurement Portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and the MPM website www.mpm.karnataka.gov.in.

**Sd/- Director (Forest) In-charge**

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/06/04/16

## Unified Celebration of Great Leaders' Birth Anniversaries: Minister K.H. Muniyappa

**DEVANAHALLI**

The birth anniversaries of Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar will be celebrated at the district level in a meaningful and grand manner, with the consensus of all community leaders, said K.H. Muniyappa, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs, and District In-Charge Minister.

Presiding over a preparatory meeting at the District Panchayat Hall in Devanahalli taluk, Muniyappa paid floral tributes to the portraits of the Green Revolution icon, former Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram, and the Constitution architect and Bharat Ratna awardee Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, addressing attendees about the significance of the celebrations.

Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram's 119th birth anniversary will be observed on April 5, 2026, while Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary will be commemorated on April 14, 2026. The minister emphasized that the programs should honor the ideals, social thinking, and significant contributions of both leaders toward equality, ensuring they are conducted respectfully and purposefully.

Additionally, the unveiling of Dr. Ambedkar's statue within the district administration premises is planned soon. Muniyappa confirmed that discussions with the Chief Minister regarding the inauguration have already taken place, and a date will be finalized shortly. Efforts are being made to ensure the statue is unveiled before April 14.

The preparatory meeting was attended by District Commissioner Dr. K.N. Anuradha, Additional District Commissioner Saiyida Ayesha, Deputy Secretary of Zilla Panchayat Shivakumar, social welfare department officials Prem and DYSP Pandurang, Devanahalli Tahsildar Anil, EO Srinath Gowda, and community leaders including Bullahalli Rajappa, Lokesh, Attibele Narasappa, Marappa, Karahalli Srinivas, M. Murthy, Subbaraju, and Palyasomashankar, among others.

## SWR Runs Special Yesvantpur-Kannur Train via Mangaluru

**BENGALURU**

Ahead of the upcoming Good Friday festival weekend, the South Western Railway has announced a one-trip special train service between Yesvantpur Junction and Kannur via Mangaluru Junction. According to an official released from the SWR, Train Number 06551 Yesvantpur–Kannur Express Special will depart Yesvantpur at 11.50 am on April 2 and is scheduled to arrive Kannur at 3.00 am on April 3.

In the return direction, Train Number 06552 Kannur–Yesvantpur Express Special will leave Kannur at 8.45 am on April 3 and reach Yesvantpur at 9.30 pm the same day.

The special train will halt at Kunigal, Channarayapatna, Hassan, Sakleshpura, Subrahmanya Road, Kabaka Puttur, Bantawala, Mangaluru Junction, Kasaragod, Kanhangad and Payyannur.

The train composition will have two AC two-tier coaches, six AC three-tier coaches, seven sleeper class coaches, four general second class coaches.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

## QUICK READ

### India secures best trade deal with US

**NEW DELHI**

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India has secured a superior trade deal compared to other major economies. Speaking after the WTO conference in Cameroon, Goyal highlighted that the recent interim pact places India in a "sweet spot" for global business. The agreement significantly lowered US tariffs on Indian goods from 50 percent to 18 percent earlier this year. Despite shifting US policies, both nations remain committed to expanding economic ties. Goyal also reaffirmed India's stand on protecting local farmers and fishers, ensuring that international trade rules remain fair and support the nation's long-term food security.

### Indian ships safely cross key oil route

**NEW DELHI**

Six Indian vessels carrying vital energy supplies have safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz amid regional tensions. The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed today that India is actively negotiating with Iran to ensure unimpeded transit for ships carrying crude oil and gas. While eighteen tankers were recently stranded, diplomatic efforts have successfully restarted movement for several vessels. India also joined UK-hosted talks today to discuss maritime security. Officials denied rumors of paying transit tolls, emphasizing that friendly ties with Iran are keeping trade routes open.

### MP lauds govt for 'effective' handling of global crisis

**NEW DELHI**

JD(U) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha stood firmly behind the Centre, calling its handling of the escalating West Asia crisis "remarkable."

Speaking to reporters in the capital, Jha emphasized that while the conflict was not created by India, the government's proactive response has successfully shielded the nation from the worst global impacts.

The crisis, which has lasted over a month, has triggered emergency situations and fuel price hikes in many neighboring countries. Jha credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for personally monitoring the situation since day one.

He noted that the Prime Minister has kept Parliament and all political parties informed, ensuring that essential supplies remain stable despite the chaos abroad.

However, the MP also raised concerns about "panic buying" among the public.

He alleged that some people are stockpiling goods due to fear, a situation he claimed was made worse by "confusion" spread by the Opposition. Despite these challenges, Jha expressed total confidence in the public's trust.

He highlighted that India is actively finding new international sources for fuel to prevent any local shortages.

# Russian delegation visits Indian Parliament

Speaker Om Birla welcomed the delegation; the visit marks another step in strengthening parliamentary and political dialogue between India and Russia

**NEW DELHI**

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla welcomed a high-level Russian delegation to Parliament House, marking a significant step in boosting the long-standing friendship between the two nations.

Led by Vladimir Yakushev, the Deputy Chairperson of Russia's Federation Council, the visit focused on making the bond between their parliaments even stronger.

During the warm meeting, both sides talked about working closer together in several key areas, including trade, modern technology, and cultural exchange. Speaker Birla described the relationship between India and Russia as a "time-tested" partnership built on deep trust. He emphasized that when lawmakers from both countries talk and share ideas, it helps build better democratic institutions and connects ordinary citizens across borders. The timing of this visit is particularly important. Along with the parliamentary group, Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister, Denis Manturov, also landed in the capital for high-stakes talks. These discussions are expected to cover vital issues like energy, national security, and defense. With global tensions rising in regions like West Asia, leaders from both countries are keen to ensure their strategic alliance remains steady and reliable.

Russian delegation, led by First Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Vladimir Yakushev, meets Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla at Speaker's Committee Room in Parliament House, during a two-day visit to India, in New Delhi on Thursday.

Yakushev's visit will continue through April 4, during which he will meet with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to discuss economic cooperation. This series of meetings highlights a clear goal: while the world changes, India and Russia are determined to keep their historic connection alive through trade, technology, and mutual respect. The dialogue ensures that the two nations remain key partners on the global stage.

# Giant laddus, sand art mark Hanuman Jayanti

**MUMBAI**

India celebrated Hanuman Jayanti with immense devotion, featuring spectacular tributes ranging from massive sweets to coastal art. In Mumbai and Surat, thousands of devotees gathered to honor the deity, marking the day with unique displays of faith that drew crowds from across the region.

At Mumbai's Juhu Beach, artist Laxmi Gaud created a stunning 15-foot sand sculpture of Lord Hanuman. The project took 15 hours of continuous labor. Using a JCB machine to move sand and vibrant rangoli colors for detail, Gaud dedicated her work to the spirit of peace. She noted that honoring Hanuman is a way to celebrate his devotion to Lord Ram, praying specifically for an end to global conflicts.

Meanwhile, in Surat, the Pardeshwar Mahadev Temple at Atal Ashram made headlines with a record-breaking 7,000 kg "laddu." Mahant Batukgiri Maharaj explained that a team worked for days to prepare the massive offering. The giant sweet was later distributed as "prasad" to an estimated 40,000 visitors. The Mahant described the event as a divine arrangement, emphasizing that the community came together through shared faith.

Local celebrities and regular devotees alike joined the festivities, offering prayers to the "Sankat Mochan" or reliever of troubles. From the shores of Maharashtra to the temples of Gujarat, the celebrations highlighted a national desire for happiness and harmony, proving that traditional devotion remains a powerful force in modern India.

# ECI bars exit polls, reiterates 48 silence period

**NEW DELHI**

The Election Commission of India issued a stern reminder regarding the "silence period" for the upcoming Assembly elections.

To ensure a fair voting process, officials have banned the broadcast of all opinion polls and election-related content for 48 hours before people head to the booths on April 9.

Starting the evening of April 7, television channels, radio stations, and social media platforms must stop displaying any material that could influence a voter's mind.

This quiet period is designed to give citizens a peaceful environment to make their final decisions without being bombarded by political ads or predictions.

In states like Kerala and Puducherry, the silence begins at 6 p.m., while Assam will start its lockdown an hour earlier at 5 p.m.

The commission warned that breaking these rules is a serious offense. Under the Representation of the People Act, anyone caught displaying election matters during this window could face up to two years in prison or a heavy fine.

**This quiet period is designed to give citizens a peaceful environment to make their final decisions without being bombarded by political ads or predictions.**

This includes panel discussions or appeals that favor a specific party. Additionally, exit polls—which predict winners based on voter interviews—are strictly barred until all voting phases are completed.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar emphasized that these measures are vital for a "violence-free" election.

As the country prepares for polls across multiple states, including West Bengal and Tamil Nadu later this month, the focus remains on maintaining the integrity of the ballot.

The final results for this massive democratic exercise will be announced on May 4.


Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat
Office of The Executive Engineer,
**Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru**
Ph No.: 08262-220936 e-mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
Tender Notice No.: 46/2025-26/3687 Date: 01.04.2026

**Tender Notice**

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru invites Tenders through K.P.P.P. related to works of Chikkamagaluru, Kaduru, Koppa, N.R. Pura, Sringeri and Tarikere Taluks in Chikkamagaluru District. Max. Approx. Amount put to Tender is Rs. 82.66 lakhs and Min. Approx. amount is Rs. 8.25 lakhs. Details of capability to undertake or of having implemented the works should be attached as per Standard Tender Document KW–1,2 & 3. For the said works the documents downloaded from K.P.P.P. can be filled and uploaded from 01.04.2026 to 21.04.2026 up to 5.30 PM. Technical Bid will be opened on 23.04.2026 at 5.05 PM. If possible the Financial Bid will be opened on 30.04.2026 at 11.00 AM. If this day is declared as holiday then the next day will be considered. Notice can be read on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Further details can be obtained by contacting the case worker during office hours.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru.**

DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/26-27/01/21

**GRATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY**
**BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Zone-1, Rajarajeshwari Nagara, Bengaluru-560 091.
**No: SADH/BWCC/RRN/TENDER/06/2025-26 Date: 31.032026**

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)**
**(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)**

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Rajarajeshwari Nagara) (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to implement in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Maintenance of Parks.

| Sl. No. | Name of the work |
|---|---|
| 1 | Providing Chain Link Fencing and Other Development works at Kuvempu Park in Ward No.159. **Estimate Cost:** Rs.16,00,000/-. **EMD Amount:** Rs.32,000/-. **Category:** Others. |

**Calendar of Events:** 1) Date of Notification: **31.03.2026.** 2) Tender can be downloaded from KPP Portal of GOK from : **04.04.2026** onwards. 3) Tender Closing date: **15.04.2026, at.5.00 p.m.** 4) Technical Bid opening date: **16.04.2026, 11.00 a.m.** onwards. 5) Financial bid opening date: **After approval of Technical Bid.**

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or from the KPP portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bengaluru West City Corporation Zone-1, Rajarajeshara Nagar**

**CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED (CNNL)**
(A Government of Karnataka under taking)
**Office of the Executive Engineer, Manchanabele Project Division,**
Bangalore South District, Ramanagara, Karnataka,
e-mail: **eempdrmgm@gmail.com. Ph: 080-27271259**
No.: EE/MPDiv./RMN/TND-01/2026-27 Date: 02.04.2026

**Short Term Tender Notification**

The CNNL hereby invites Tender for the Different kinds of works under 4701 head through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal for Nelmangala Constituency. The last date for Pre Bid Meeting, tender submission, Opening of Technical Bid, Financial Bid dates, EMD details and more information can downloaded from the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal and for further information please visit office at working hours.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, M.P. Division**
CNNL, Bangalore South District, Ramanagara
DIPR/BSD/05/SA/2026-27

**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**
**(www.kpwd.gov.in)**
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga
Ph: 08182-222943 **Email ID:** spdivision@gmail.com

**SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(Two-cover system) (Through KPP portal)**
**IFT No. 55/2025-26 Date: 27.03.2026**

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-4 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 and above register contractor can apply under head of account 3054-04-337-1-10-200-Major District and Other road maintenance for work of Repairs to Road from S.H-65 Umblebailu Via Kaidottlu, Siddmaji Hosur, Lingapura to Join S.H.-65 From 3.00 to 3.60 Km & 6.00 to 7.47 km in Shivamogga Taluk (Indent No-35213) for Amount put to tender is **Rs.159.62 Lakhs** and EMD amount is **Rs.2.40 Lakhs**. Time allowed for completion of work is 09 Months including Monsoon. The tenderers may submit tenders through KPPP- portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz., http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP-Portal from **27-03-2026 to 06-04-2026** Last date for Receipt of Tender is on **06-04-2026 at 17.00 PM.** The Technical bid will be opened on **07-04-2026 at 05.30 PM** onwards and Financial bid will be opened after **07-04-2026** Onwards. If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through KPP-Portal only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

**Sd/-**
**Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Special Division, Shivamogga**
DIPR/SMG/No. 12-04/ Zenkar/2026-27

**KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION**
Nelson Mandella Road, Bannimantapa, Mysuru
**No.KST/EEM/JE/02/2026-27 Date: 01.04.2026**

**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 01/02/2026-27**

Item wise tenders are invited for the notification no. 01/02/2026-27 work mentioned below as per Karnataka transperency in Public Procurement Act KTTP Ordinance Act 1999, and Rules 2000 from the appropriate class of Civil Contractors in KPWD and CPWD as mentioned below through E-procurement. The contractors/firms will have to upload all required information, documents and rates etc., in the website only i.e., **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** No documents will be accepted manually.

| Sl. no | Name of the work | Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs) | E.M.D (in Rs.) | Last Date for submission of Tender |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Construction of Septic tank and Soak pit for toilet block in Bus station at Saragur. | Rs. 8.47 | Rs. 21,200/- | 13.04.2026 |
| 2 | Construction of KSRTC New Bus Depot at Hanuru Town | Rs. 752.36 | Rs. 11,29,000/- | 30.04.2026 |

**1.** Interested Bidders can login to the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for details on or after **06.04.2026. 2.** Any other information required can be had from the Office of The Executive Engineer, KSRTC, Nelson Mandella Road, Bannimantapa, Mysuru during working hours, Tel. Phone No:0821-2498828.

**Sd/-**
**Executive Engineer, KSRTC : CE Division : Mysuru**
DIPR/CP/41/Zen/2026-27

**ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ**
**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562114,**
ದೂರವಾಣಿ:–27931221, ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 27931759
Email:-itstaff_ulb_hosakote@yahoo.com Website: www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in
ನಂ.ನಸಹೊ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್/01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.04.2026

**" ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ" (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)**

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಹಾಗೂ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (CMIDP) ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ 01/02 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಏಕ/ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

| ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ | ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ | ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿರುವ ವರ್ಗ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT53343/CALL-2 | 20.00 | SC |
| 02 | DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT53345/CALL-2 | 20.00 | ST |
| 03 | DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53602/CALL-3 | 40.00 | Genaral |
| 04 | DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53589/CALL-3 | 42.00 | Genaral |
| 05 | DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53573/CALL-4 | 50.00 | Genaral |
| 06 | DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53597/CALL-3 | 34.00 | Genaral |
| 07 | DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53604/CALL-3 | 42.00 | Genaral |
| 08 | DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53615/CALL-3 | 35.00 | Genaral |
| 09 | DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT55028/CALL-2 | 70.00 | Genaral |
| 10 | DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT55030/CALL-2 | 40.00 | Genaral |
| 11 | DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53601/CALL-3 | 32.00 | Genaral |
| 12 | DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT50916 | 20.00 | Genaral |
| 13 | DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT50914 | 20.00 | Genaral |

1)ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 16.04.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 18.04.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 23.04.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/34/2026–27

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## QUICK READ

### Court gives final chance to Kejriwal, Sisodia in excise case

**NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court has given a final opportunity to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia to respond to the Enforcement Directorate's plea in the excise policy case. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma warned that failure to reply before the next hearing on April 22 would close their chance to respond. The ED has challenged trial court remarks made while discharging the accused. The High Court is also hearing related pleas by the CBI and ED. Meanwhile, a fresh notice was issued to Kejriwal in a separate case linked to alleged non-compliance with ED summons.

### Bomb threat triggers alert at Jaipur passport office

**JAIPUR**

A bomb threat email sent to the Regional Passport Office in Jaipur's Jhalana area triggered high alert. Police, bomb disposal, and dog squads rushed to the spot and carried out a thorough search, but no suspicious items were found. Security has been tightened as a precaution. Authorities have launched an investigation, with cyber experts working to trace the email's origin. Officials said such threats are taken seriously. Similar hoax threats were reported across Rajasthan in March, causing evacuations and panic. Police continue to monitor the situation closely to ensure public safety and prevent any risks.

# INDIA BREAKS RECORD WITH MASSIVE COAL SURGE

India's coal production from private and commercial mines hit a record 210.46 million tonnes, boosting national energy self-reliance.

**NEW DELHI**

India's coal industry reached a historic milestone, as production from private and commercial mines crossed the 200 million tonne mark for the first time.

The Ministry of Coal announced that output hit a staggering 210.46 million tonnes in the 2025-26 fiscal year, marking a 10% jump from the previous year.

This record-breaking performance is part of a national push to make India self-reliant and reduce its need for expensive energy imports.

By opening the sector to more companies, the government has successfully speeded up how quickly new mines can start digging.

In just one year, twelve new mining blocks were activated, adding 86 million tonnes of capacity to the nation's energy supply.Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy praised the achievement on social media, noting that 35 auctioned mineral blocks were put into action this year—the highest number ever recorded in a single year.

He credited the success to faster government approvals and better teamwork between central and state officials.

The surge in coal isn't just about numbers; it's about keeping the lights on. As the country's demand for electricity grows, these mines are providing the raw power needed for factories and homes.

Officials say this boost in domestic production will create thousands of new jobs and strengthen the economy.

With 200 more mining areas already sold to developers, India is signaling that it intends to keep this momentum going well into the future.

### ED RAIDS I-PAC OFFICES ACROSS 3 STATES

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided several offices linked to I-PAC, the political consultancy run by Prashant Kishor, in Bengaluru, Delhi, and Hyderabad. The raids are part of the ongoing investigation into the West Bengal coal smuggling scam, which began in 2020. Officials said the operation is pan-India, with ED teams searching premises early morning. Evidence reportedly points to money laundering, including alleged hawala transfers of about Rs 10 crore linked to I-PAC. A residence in Bengaluru connected to the firm was also searched.

## Aviation regulator holds 29 special safety audits

**Following a tragic crash, India's DGCA conducted 41 safety audits in 2026, grounding violating aircraft and enforcing strict new standards for VIP and commercial flights.**

**NEW DELHI**

India's aviation regulator, the DGCA, has carried out 29 "special audits" and 12 "regulatory audits" in the first three months of 2026 to ensure the safety of all aircraft and helicopter services.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol shared this information with Parliament recently, highlighting a major push to keep the skies safe.

These strict checks come at a time of high concern following the tragic air crash in Baramati on January 28, which claimed the life of Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister, Ajit Pawar, and four others.

In response to that accident, the government ordered a deep-dive audit into VSR Ventures, the company that owned the ill-fated Learjet plane. Since then, the DGCA has already grounded four other planes from that firm after discovering multiple safety violations. The Minister explained that the DGCA uses a variety of tools—including night inspections, spot checks, and "ramp" audits—to make sure every operator follows the law. If a company is caught cutting corners, they face heavy fines or could lose their license to fly.

To further protect important leaders, the DGCA also issued new strict guidelines on March 27 for flying national and state dignitaries. These rules demand the highest possible safety standards for VIP flights. With two more phases of audits planned for this year, the government is sending a clear message to all private and commercial flight operators: safety is not optional, and the rules will be strictly enforced.

## SC denies bail for ex-minister Alamgir

**NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court rejected the bail pleas of Jharkhand's former Rural Development Minister, Alamgir Alam, and his secretary, Sanjeev Lal.

Both men are accused in a massive money-laundering case involving a government tender scam. While the court refused to let them out, it ordered the trial court to speed up the case and record key witness statements within four weeks.

The 76-year-old politician has been behind bars since May 2024. His lawyers argued that he should be released due to his age and the long delay in his trial. However, the bench, led by Justice M.M. Sundresh, decided the allegations were too serious for bail. They made it clear that the court would only reconsider their situation after the main witnesses have finished testifying.

The case exploded last year when the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided properties linked to Alam's secretary, finding a staggering 32.20 crore in cash. Investigators also found a diary that allegedly tracked "commissions" taken from government contracts. The ED claims there was a fixed system where contractors had to pay a 3% bribe to get work.

According to the probe, a large slice of this bribe money went directly to the minister, while the rest was split among engineers and other officials. Total illegal earnings from the scam are estimated to be over 90 crore.

## MP braces for 3 days of storms

**BHOPAL**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an urgent weather warning for Madhya Pradesh, predicting heavy thunderstorms, lightning, and hailstorms across the state until April 5. A powerful "Western Disturbance" moving from Iran and Afghanistan, combined with local wind patterns, is creating highly unstable conditions. Recent rains have already lashed several areas, with Pandhurna recording a significant 80 mm of rainfall. High-speed winds, reaching up to 56 kmph in Sagar, have also been reported. The IMD expects these conditions to spread further, affecting major cities including Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, and Ujjain. Residents in rural areas are especially advised to stay alert as gusty winds and hail could impact crops and outdoor structures.

The weather office warns that isolated places in districts like Dhar, Seoni, and Damoh are likely to see hailstorms. Authorities are urging people to stay indoors during lightning strikes, avoid standing under tall trees, and secure any loose objects around their homes.

## Court warns SEC over delayed polls

**JAIPUR**

The Rajasthan High Court took a tough stand by issuing contempt notices to the State Election Commission (SEC) and its commissioner, Rajeshwar Singh.

The court is upset over the continuous delays in holding local elections for panchayats and urban bodies across the state, which are already behind schedule.

Acting Chief Justice S.P. Sharma pointed out that the commission's new timeline for updating voter lists goes past the court's strict deadline. Previously, the court had ordered that all elections must be finished by April 15, 2026. However, the commission's current plan shows that the final voter lists won't even be ready until April 22, making it impossible to meet the legal cutoff.

Lawyers representing the petitioner, former MLA Sanyam Lodha, argued that the government and the election body are intentionally dragging their feet. They claimed this delay is a direct insult to the court's earlier instructions. While the state's Advocate General mentioned that the government plans to ask for more time, the judges remained firm, demanding to know why a conflicting schedule was created in the first place. This legal battle began last year when the court ruled on hundreds of petitions, demanding that local leadership be restored promptly. Even the Supreme Court had previously agreed that the April 15 deadline must be respected. The State Election Commission now has four weeks to explain its actions to the High Court. For now, the delay leaves many local government seats empty and communities waiting for representation.


ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

**ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ**

**ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ-571313**

**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ-41/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:-31-03-2026 (ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ)**

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ ರೀತ್ಯಾ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹನೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ KW-1, 2 ಮತ್ತು 3 ರೀತ್ಯಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ:- 06-04-2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:- 28-04-2026 ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ/ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-04-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:-30-04-2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ದೊರೆತ ನಂತರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಂತೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

| ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. | ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು/ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ | ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೊಬಲಗು (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಗಣಿಗನೂರು-ಗಣೇಗನೂರುಪುರ ಗೊದ್ದಲೇಹುಂಡಿ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಗಡಿ ವರೆಗಿನ ರಸ್ತೆ ಡಾಂಬರೀಕರಣ | 90.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 2 | ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಉಮ್ಮತ್ತೂರು ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಲಿಂಗಣಾಪುರದ ವರಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಡಾಂಬರೀಕರಣ | 100.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 3 | ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಎನ್.ಹೆಚ್.- 209 ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ನಡುಕಲಮೋಳೆ ಹೊಸಮೋಳೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆಂಪನಪುರಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಡಾಂಬರೀಕರಣ | 100.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 4 | ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಗೂಳಿಪುರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಮಾರ್ಗವಾಗಿ ಅಂಬಳೆ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ ಡಾಂಬರೀಕರಣ | 100.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 5 | ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಗೂಳಿಪುರ-ಕಾಗಲವಾಡಿ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಕೋಟಂಬಳ್ಳಿ ಮಾರ್ಗವಾಗಿ ಕರಿಯನಕಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ಸೇರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಡಾಂಬರೀಕರಣ | 90.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 6 | ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಣ್ಣೆಗಾಲ ಸಿಂಗನಪುರ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಮಂಗಲಹೊಸೂರಿಗೆ ಸೇರುವ ರಸೆಗೆ ಮೆಟ್ಲಿಂಗ್ ಕಂ ಡಾಂಬರೀಕರಣ | 20.00 | | | 4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 7 | ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕೆಂಪನಪಾಳ್ಯ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಲಿಂಕ್ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ | 50.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 8 | ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಬೂದಿತಿಟ್ಟು ನಿಂದ ಬೆಂಡರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮಾರ್ಗವಾಗಿ ಮುಡಿಗುಂಡ-ಕುಣಗಳ್ಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ | 75.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 9 | ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕರಳಕಟ್ಟೆದೊಡ್ಡಿ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಸೋಲಿಗರದೊಡ್ಡಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ | 75.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 10 | ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ದಾಸನಪುರ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಹಳೆ ಅಣಗಳ್ಳಿ ಮಾರ್ಗವಾಗಿ ಎನ್.ಹೆಚ್-209 ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ | 50.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 11 | ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಸಿದ್ದಯ್ಯನಪುರದಿಂದ ಕೆಂಪನಪಾಳ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ | 80.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 12 | ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಹಿತ್ತಲಗುಡ್ಡ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಎಂಡಿ.ಆರ್ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ | 20.00 | | | 4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 13 | ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಉತ್ತಂಬಳ್ಳಿಯಿಂದ ಮುಳ್ಳೂರು ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್ ಸೇರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ | 60.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 14 | ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಎನ್.ಹೆಚ್.- 209 ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಹರಳೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ | 90.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 15 | ಯಳಂದೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಗುಂಬಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಕೃಷ್ಣಾಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಅರುಣ ಮಾರಮ್ಮ ದೇವಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ | 100.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 16 | ಯಳಂದೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮದ್ದೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಮದ್ದೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಆಲ್ಕೆರೆ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ | 50.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
| 17 | ಯಳಂದೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮದ್ದೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಬೂದಿತಿಟ್ಟು ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದಿಂದ ಮದ್ದೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ | 50.00 | | | 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು |
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ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು

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## UIDAI teams up with MapmyIndia to map Aadhaar centres

**NEW DELHI**

Finding an authorized Aadhaar center just got a lot easier. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) signed an agreement with MapmyIndia to list all verified Aadhaar Seva Kendras (ASKs) on the Mappls App.

This new partnership is designed to tackle misinformation and help residents find exactly what they need without the guesswork.

Whether you are looking for adult enrollment, a center that handles child enrollment, or simply a place to update your mobile number and address, the app will now categorize centers based on the specific services they offer.

Bhuvnesh Kumar, CEO of UIDAI, emphasized that "resident centricity" is the driving force behind the move. "This collaboration will allow digital mapping of verified Aadhaar Centres across India and help people find the authorized centers easily," he stated.

This isn't the only tech giant UIDAI is working with. A similar partnership was recently launched with Google Maps, which will soon allow residents to book appointments directly through the map interface.

Between the new Mappls integration and the upgraded Aadhaar mobile app launched in January, the government is making a major push to ensure your digital identity is safer and more accessible than ever before.

**SERVICE FILTERING**
- Filter by Adult/Child Enrolment or Data Updates

**ACCESSIBILITY INFO**
- Displays "Divyang-friendly" (disabled-friendly) status

**CONVENIENCE**
- Lists parking availability and real-time operating hours

**VERIFICATION**
- Only shows officially authorized UIDAI centers.

GENDER GAP

## *Few women chase seats in tribal polls*

**AGARTALA**

As Tripura prepares for the important tribal council elections on April 12, a disappointing trend has emerged. Out of 173 candidates fighting for a seat, only eight are women. This means women make up less than five percent of the total participants, sparking fresh talk about gender gaps in local leadership. The Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council is a powerful body. It manages two-thirds of the state's land and looks after the needs of over twelve lakh people. Despite its importance, major political groups have barely nominated female faces. The ruling BJP, the Tipra Motha Party, the Congress, and the CPI(M) have each fielded only one woman. The IPFT leads slightly with three female candidates, while one woman is running independently.

Political experts find these numbers surprising. In the last election held in 2021, six women ran for office, and two actually won. Instead of seeing a big jump in female participation this year, the increase is very small. This comes at a time when tribal communities are demanding more say in how their land and resources are managed. The election is a massive event, with parties like the BJP and Tipra Motha competing for all 28 seats. While the fight for power is intense, the lack of women on the ballot remains a quiet but serious issue.

# NASA Artemis 2 heads to moon with iPhone

The initiative aims to leverage modern,commercial technology for personal,high-quality images and video, providing a more intimate view of the mission than traditional, heavyequipment allows

**FLORIDA**

For the first time in history, NASA astronauts have packed their personal iPhones for a trip to the Moon. The Artemis II mission launched from Florida, carrying four brave explorers into deep space. While previous missions used heavy government cameras, this crew is using modern smartphones to capture the journey.Commander Reid Wiseman and his team—Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen—are on a ten-day flight around the Moon. NASA leader Jared Isaacman decided to allow the phones to help the crew document their lives and stay connected with their families. The goal is to make space travel feel more human and share more personal, inspiring videos with the world.To stay safe, the phones are kept in airplane mode so they don't mess with the ship's controls. While they can't make traditional voice calls from the stars, the astronauts can hop onto the International Space Station's Wi-Fi when nearby to send emails and photos back to Earth.

**THE MISSION**
Artemis II is the first crewed flight of the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion spacecraft, featuring a crew of four -- Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen.

## QUICK READ

### India-Tibet talks focus on regional security

**Tibet**
Tibetan leaders and Indian strategic experts held a closed-door meeting to discuss India-Tibet-China relations and regional security. The programme, organised by Tibet Action Institute with partner groups, brought scholars and researchers together for dialogue. Key topics included geopolitics, environmental concerns, and China's military activities in Tibet. Participants highlighted Tibet's growing importance in India's security and Indo-Pacific dynamics. Concerns over river resources, mining, and human rights were also raised. Experts stressed the need for stronger cooperation and open discussions. The meeting aimed to build understanding and prepare future policy responses to evolving regional challenges.

### Burkina Faso receives rice aid from India

**West Africa**
India has sent 1,000 metric tons of rice to Burkina Faso as humanitarian aid to support food security and help vulnerable communities. The Ministry of External Affairs said the move shows India's commitment to assisting Global South nations. The two countries share friendly ties and maintain regular diplomatic engagement. Officials highlighted ongoing cooperation and development partnerships between them. Earlier, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met Burkina Faso leader Ousmane Bougouma to discuss stronger relations and support. India has also offered training and development help. The aid aims to strengthen ties while addressing urgent food needs in the African nation.

## Iran launches reconstruction push following war damage

**TEHRAN**

Iran's Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, has called for a comprehensive nationwide drive to restore infrastructure and address the destruction caused by "unprovoked American-Zionist aggression," according to Iran state broadcaster Press TV.

The Leader's appeal was part of a broader message issued on Wednesday to mark Islamic Republic Day and National Nature Day. He stressed that national efforts must now focus on ensuring the country's continued prosperity in the wake of the recent conflict.

The Supreme Leader, who is the son of the late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, noted that the recent external hostilities had not only impacted the population but had specifically "targeted its land and natural environment." He condemned the actions of the opposition, stating that at a time when the "vile and ruthless American and Zionist enemy knows no human, moral, or existential limits in its savagery," the nation must remain focused on internal growth.

The Leader further observed that the enemy "has even attacked and damaged the natural and environmental spaces of our beloved homeland." Consequently, he asserted that "every effort aimed at expanding development and building Iran's bright future is both worthy and necessary."Reflecting on the resilience of the public, he described the nation as having maintained a spirit of "steadfastness and dignity" throughout the recent spring commemorations. Press TV noted his remarks that the "heroic nation of Iran has intertwined this year's Nowruz with epic resolve and honour,"

despite the ongoing regional pressures.A significant portion of the address was dedicated to those who lost their lives during the hostilities that commenced on 28 February. As reported by Press TV, the Leader highlighted a specific strike on a girls' school in the southern city of Minab, which resulted in 186 fatalities.Referring to the young victims of the school attack, he stated that "the child-killing,

monstrous American and Zionist fiends brutally martyred the young saplings of the school."

In light of these events, he urged citizens in both urban and rural areas to participate in a coordinated tree-planting initiative.tHe stated that the Iranian people are "planting the sapling of hope across its land" as a tribute to those lost in the "ongoing war." He expressed confidence that, through these efforts, "each of these saplings may, in the years ahead, grow into a blessed tree and a fruitful one."

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei stressed that national efforts must now focus on ensuring the country's continued prosperity post conflict.

## NEPAL RESCUES 300 WORKERS FROM WAR ZONE

**BHAIRAHAWA**

Nepal successfully brought home over 300 stranded citizens and the bodies of nine migrant workers recently as the conflict in West Asia continues to escalate. A chartered Kuwait Airways flight landed at Gautam Buddha International Airport late in the evening, providing a lifeline for those caught in the crossfire of rising regional tensions.The rescue mission used a large Boeing 777 aircraft to transport 318 passengers who had been stuck in Kuwait for over a month. Airport General Manager Shyam Kishor Shah confirmed that the operation was a coordinated effort between the Nepali government and its embassy abroad. Along with the living, the flight somberly carried the remains of nine workers from various districts, who will now be returned to their families for final rites.

Travel in and out of Kuwait has become nearly impossible recently due to military strikes involving the United States, Israel, and Iran.

## New book unpacks secrets of Middle East conflict

**NEW DELHI**

A powerful new book titled Between Tehran and Tel Aviv, is giving readers a front-row seat to the complex wars shaping the Middle East. Written by military expert Col. Rajeev Agarwal, the book serves as a deep dive into the messy web of friendships and fights between powerful nations like Iran, Israel, and the United States.

The author explains that this isn't just a local fight, it's a global issue. He highlights how Iran's big ambitions have changed the region and how Israel is constantly forced to rethink its military plans to stay safe. One of the most surprising points in the book is the claim that the United States was dragged into a war it didn't want because of mistakes made long before the famous October 7 attacks.Beyond the politics, the book focuses on the human side of the tragedy in Gaza. It details the suffering of everyday people and argues that the world must find a way to talk peace instead of just fighting. Col. Agarwal doesn't just list dates and events; he shares stories of victory, fear, and hope to show what war really feels like.The book also asks the tough questions like why did peace talks fail ? How did Israel take back control? Most importantly, it looks at the first-ever direct military battle between Iran and Israel As a new conflict in Iran hits its one-month mark, this book offers vital lessons on why long wars hurt everyone involved..

## Russia warns Japan over new missile deployment

**MOSCOW**

Russia has issued a sharp warning to Japan, claiming its latest military moves could lead to "tragic" consequences. Maria Zakharova, a spokesperson for the Russian Foreign Ministry, stated that Japan is turning away from its peaceful history by placing powerful new missiles at military bases in Kumamoto and Shizuoka.

These weapons include high-speed "hypersonic" missiles that can travel over 1,000 kilometers.

This range far exceeds Japan's own borders, which Russia argues is a sign of offensive intent rather than simple self-defense. Zakharova noted that Russia is now considering "countermeasures" to ensure its own national security in response to what she called Japan's "dangerous remilitarization."

The move marks a major shift for Japan, which has followed a strictly defensive policy since World War II. While the Japanese government says these missiles are meant to stop attacks before they happen, critics and legal experts warn that hitting an enemy base first could violate international law.On the ground, the deployment has sparked anger among Japanese citizens. Local residents near Camp Kengun held protests this week, carrying signs that read "No missiles needed." Many fear that having such powerful weapons nearby makes their homes a target for future conflicts.

## UN expert condemns harassment of Baloch activists

**DUBLIN**

A United Nations expert has raised a red flag over the mistreatment of human rights defenders in Pakistan. Mary Lawlor, the UN Special Rapporteur, expressed deep concern regarding the constant harassment of Sabiha Baloch and her family. She stated that the authorities appear to be targeting these women simply for their peaceful work in promoting basic human rights.The Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) has been under fire recently, facing what they call "baseless and politically motivated" accusations. The group claims the government is using staged events to silence them. In one specific case, a woman named Farzana Zehri, who had disappeared months ago, was suddenly brought before the media to speak against the activists. The BYC argues these statements were forced and hold no legal weight, as the woman was held in secret without a trial.Lawlor and other international rights groups are now calling for an immediate end to these tactics. They believe the government is trying to justify a crackdown on a movement that only seeks justice. The BYC recently marked one year since several of its leaders were detained, calling the ongoing imprisonment a sign of government "panic" rather than a response to any real crime.As pressure builds from the UN, the message is clear: defending human rights should not be treated as a criminal act.

## Night mortar attack kills family in Balochistan

**AWARAN**

A quiet night turned into a nightmare in Pakistan's Balochistan province after a mortar shell struck a home, killing three family members. The victims included Muhammad Omar, his wife Faiza, and their 12-year-old daughter. The blast, which occurred in the Kolwah region of Awaran district, has left the local community paralyzed by shock and fear.

According to reports, local residents have accused Pakistani security forces of firing the shell that destroyed the residence. The explosion was so powerful that it leveled parts of the house and damaged nearby buildings. Neighbors rushed through the smoke and debris to pull survivors from the wreckage, but for three members of the Omar family, help arrived too late.

At least three other relatives were rushed to a nearby hospital with serious injuries, including Omar's daughter-in-law, Fahmida. "The explosion shook every house on the street," said one terrified resident who asked to stay anonymous. "We are all living in fear now."

## INDIA FOILS MASSIVE ISI CYBER ATTACK ON COUNTRY'S INFRA

**INDIA**

India's Intelligence Bureau has uncovered a dangerous plot by Pakistan's ISI to launch a massive cyber offensive against the nation's defense and financial systems.

Officials warn that the goal is to cripple critical infrastructure and steal sensitive data using specialized hacker groups like "Cyber Group HOAX1337" and the "National Cyber Crew."

This "multi-pronged" attack isn't just happening on computer screens. Intelligence suggests the ISI is also using ground spies to track Indian railway stations. In a shocking discovery.

## EDUCATION CRISIS

## *Millions of Pak children missing out on school*

**ISLAMABAD**

Pakistan is facing a "national shame" as over 25.1 million children remain out of school. Using data from UNICEF, it has been highlighted that Pakistan now has the second-highest number of children missing out on education in the entire world.

The crisis is hitting different provinces hard. Punjab has the highest number with 9.7 million children out of class, while Balochistan is the worst affected by percentage, with nearly 69% of its school-aged children denied an education. Even in the capital city of Islamabad, 90,000 children are not in school, proving that no part of the country is safe from this failure.A major part of the problem is a lack of money. While international standards suggest spending 4% to 6% of a country's wealth on education, Pakistan's spending has dropped to a record low of just 0.8%. Most of this small budget goes toward teacher salaries, leaving almost nothing for new books, safe buildings, or modern repairs.It has also been pointed out that there is a "layer of injustice" against girls, who face extra barriers like early marriage and safety concerns. Without urgent changes, experts warn that Pakistan risks losing an entire generation to poverty and child labor.

## SUDOKU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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| 8 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| 3 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| 7 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 5 |

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

**Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.**

# CSK seek rhythm against potent Punjab Kings at home clash

**CHENNAI**

Chennai Super Kings will look to rediscover their rhythm and correct early-season flaws when they face a confident Punjab Kings in their first home fixture of the Indian Premier League on Friday.

After an uninspiring start against Rajasthan Royals in Guwahati, CSK enter the contest with several questions to answer across departments. The young squad struggled to find momentum in their opener and will be eager to reset in familiar conditions at Chepauk, where the surface is expected to favour batting.

A major focus will be on Sanju Samson, the franchise's marquee signing this season, who endured a brief outing on debut. The stylish batter will be keen to make a statement in front of the home crowd. Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, meanwhile, could benefit from the presence of MS Dhoni in the dugout, with the veteran likely to return despite nursing a calf strain.

Chennai Super Kings aim to bounce back against strong Punjab Kings side

CSK also await clarity on Dewald Brevis' fitness, while Sarfaraz Khan showed promise despite a short stay at the crease in his comeback IPL appearance. Youngsters like Kartik Sharma are expected to play a bigger role as the tournament progresses.

The bowling unit, led by Matt Henry and Noor Ahmad, will be under pressure to deliver after a tough outing in the previous match. Punjab Kings, last season's finalists, arrive as a formidable unit under the leadership of Shreyas Iyer and coach Ricky Ponting. They recently secured a tense win over Gujarat Titans, with Cooper Connolly emerging as a reliable presence at number three.

While their middle-order showed signs of vulnerability, bowlers like Yuzvendra Chahal and Vijaykumar Vyshak impressed with disciplined performances. Punjab may also look to include the consistent Harpreet Brar to strengthen their combination.

With both teams aiming to build momentum, an intense contest is on the cards. The match is scheduled to begin at 7:30 PM IST.

## Anderson rues Hundred stint, prioritises county cricket comeback with Lancashire

**LONDON**

**Veteran seamer says focus on fitness and leadership outweighs short-format commitments now**

Former England pace great James Anderson has candidly admitted that he "hated every minute" of his brief appearance in The Hundred last year, choosing instead to prioritise county cricket and his role with Lancashire this season.

The 43-year-old, who retired from international cricket in 2024 as England's highest wicket-taker in Tests, endured a modest run in the 2025 edition of the tournament. Picked as a wildcard by Manchester Originals, Anderson managed just two wickets in three matches, failing to make a significant impact in the 100-ball format.

Reflecting on that experience, Anderson said his decision to skip the 2026 season was driven both by his dissatisfaction with the format and his renewed responsibilities at county level. He is set to captain Lancashire this year and is keen to guide the side back to Division One of the County Championship.

"I think it's really important that I focus on being as fit as I can be for the four-day stuff," Anderson said, underlining his commitment to the longer format. He added that he would rather take time off during The Hundred window, which runs from July 21 to August 16, instead of returning to the competition.

Despite stepping away from franchise cricket, Anderson has not ruled out extending his playing career. The veteran seamer, who claimed 704 wickets in 188 Tests, admitted he remains motivated by the prospect of helping Lancashire push for top honours if they secure promotion. However, he was also frank about the physical challenges that come with age. Anderson revealed that while there are moments he feels capable of continuing, there are also days when recovery proves difficult, raising doubts about how long his body can endure the demands of professional cricket. With the County Championship set to begin on April 3, Anderson's immediate focus will be on leading Lancashire's campaign, balancing ambition with the realities of longevity in the sport.

## Government seeks private sector support to boost Khelo India mission

**NEW DELHI**

The Centre is stepping up efforts to involve private companies in the Khelo India initiative to strengthen grassroots sports development, while making it clear that there is currently no mandate for job reservation for sportspersons in the private sector.

Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse informed the Rajya Sabha that employment opportunities for athletes in private firms remain entirely at the discretion of individual companies. Responding during Question Hour, she said there is no existing policy requiring private organisations to reserve jobs for sportspersons, unlike provisions available in certain government departments and public sector undertakings.

The clarification came in response to a query by BJP member Mayankkumar Nayak, who sought details on whether meritorious athletes could expect similar employment benefits in the private sector. Khadse reiterated that while companies are free to hire sportspersons, the government has not imposed any binding rules in this regard.

However, the minister highlighted ongoing efforts to encourage corporate participation in sports promotion through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding and other collaborative avenues. The government aims to leverage private sector resources to expand the reach and impact of the Khelo India programme, which focuses on identifying and nurturing young talent across the country.

Khadse also pointed out that various ministries, including railways and defence, follow their own criteria for providing job reservations to athletes under existing guidelines framed by the Department of Personnel and Training. Addressing a separate question by Congress member Digvijaya Singh, the minister underlined the integration of sports and education under the Khelo India framework.

*Fans face soaring prices and technical issues during reopened FIFA ticket sales*

## FIFA hikes WC final ticket price amid glitch-hit sales reopening

**ZURICH**

FIFA has sharply increased ticket prices for the 2026 World Cup final, with the most expensive seats now costing $10,990, as the latest sales phase reopened amid widespread technical glitches and fan frustration.

The top-tier ticket for the July 19 final at MetLife Stadium marks a steep rise from the earlier price of $8,680 announced following the tournament draw in December. Prices across other categories have also surged, with category 2 tickets now at $7,380 and category 3 seats at $5,785.

The governing body is implementing dynamic pricing for the expanded 48-team tournament, which will be hosted across the United States, Mexico and Canada from June 11 to July 19.

However, the reopening of ticket sales was marred by technical issues. Many fans reported waiting hours to access the ticketing platform, while others were mistakenly redirected to unrelated sales phases. FIFA later acknowledged the glitches but said the system was functioning properly after initial disruptions.

Adding to the confusion, FIFA did not specify which matches or pricing categories were available, forcing users to manually search through listings. By Wednesday evening, tickets were available for only a limited number of group-stage matches, with no knockout fixtures on offer.

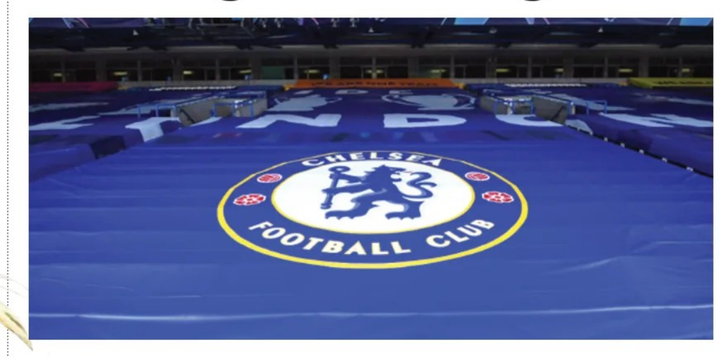
Prices for select matches also reflected upward revisions.

Tickets for the tournament opener between Mexico and Saudi Arabia in Mexico City rose to $2,985, while seats for Canada's first match in Toronto increased slightly. Meanwhile, high-end tickets for the United States' opening game at SoFi Stadium remained unchanged at $2,735.

This marks the fifth phase of ticket sales, and notably the first where fans can purchase specific seat locations rather than applying for categories. FIFA indicated that tickets will continue to be released in stages throughout the tournament period. The price hikes and dynamic model have drawn criticism, including from U.S. lawmakers, who argue that rising costs risk making the World Cup less accessible. FIFA President Gianni Infantino has defended the approach, citing unprecedented demand, claiming requests equated to "1,000 years of World Cups at once."

With resale markets also attracting high fees, concerns persist that the 2026 edition could become one of the most expensive tournaments for fans in history.

## Chelsea posts record $350 million losses despite strong revenue figures



**LONDON**

Chelsea FC has reported a record pre-tax loss of $350 million (262.4 million pounds), the highest ever in the Premier League era, highlighting the financial strain despite robust revenues.

The London club attributed the massive losses for the 2024-25 financial year to increased operating costs, reflecting continued heavy investment under its U.S.-based private equity ownership. The losses surpass the previous league record of 197.5 million pounds set by Manchester City during the 2010-11 season.

Despite the losses, Chelsea reported revenues of 490.9 million pounds ($650 million) for the year ending June 30, 2025 — the second-highest in the club's history. A significant portion of this income came from their successful campaign in the FIFA Club World Cup, where they emerged as champions. The financial results underline a widening gap between spending and earnings, as the club continues to invest heavily in player acquisitions, wages, and overall infrastructure. Increased operational expenses, including squad development and administrative costs, were cited as key contributors to the deficit.

However, Chelsea remains compliant with the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules (PSR), which permit clubs to incur losses of up to 105 million pounds over a rolling three-year period. Certain expenditures — such as investments in infrastructure, youth academies, and women's football — are exempt from these calculations, providing some financial flexibility.The club's ownership group has prioritised long-term growth, focusing on building a competitive squad and expanding global commercial reach. While the short-term financial picture reflects heavy spending, the strategy aims to deliver sustained success both on and off the pitch.

## Sindarov stuns Caruana with brilliant attacking display at Candidates

**CHENNAI**

Javokhir Sindarov produced a scintillating performance to defeat tournament favourite Fabiano Caruana in Round 4 of the Candidates, underlining his growing stature as a serious contender for the World Championship challenger's spot. After three relatively measured days, the tournament burst into life as Sindarov showcased his attacking flair in a commanding 36-move victory. Facing Caruana, the world No. 3 and pre-tournament favourite, the Uzbek grandmaster seized control early and never relinquished his grip on the contest. Playing with white, Sindarov unleashed a series of precise and aggressive moves straight out of the opening, placing Caruana under sustained pressure. The American, who had been joint leader heading into the round, struggled to find counterplay and was forced into a defensive posture for most of the game.

Sindarov's pieces worked in perfect harmony, launching a multi-pronged attack that left Caruana short of both time and ideas.

## *ARSENAL edge Chelsea to reach Women's Champions League semifinals*

**LONDON**

Defending champions Arsenal Women held off a late surge from Chelsea Women to book their place in the UEFA Women's Champions League semifinals, advancing 3-2 on aggregate despite a 1-0 defeat in the second leg.Arsenal's strong 3-1 victory in the first leg proved decisive as they withstood intense pressure in the return fixture at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea pushed hard throughout the contest and found a breakthrough deep into stoppage time when Sjoeke Nüsken scored from close range, but it was not enough to overturn the deficit.

The closing stages were filled with drama as Chelsea came agonisingly close to forcing extra time. Veerle Buurman struck the post, while Arsenal goalkeeper Daphne van Domselaar produced a crucial save to deny Nüsken a second goal. Tensions ran high, culminating in Chelsea coach Sonia Bompastor being shown a red card in the dying moments.

Chelsea had dominated large spells of the game, with star forward Sam Kerr posing a constant threat after missing the first leg due to international duty. However, Arsenal's resilience ensured their progression to the last four, where they will face either VfL Wolfsburg Women or Olympique Lyonnais Féminin.

In the other quarterfinal, Bayern Munich Women staged a late comeback to defeat Manchester United Women 2-1 and progress 5-3 on aggregate. Manchester United, playing in their first-ever quarter- final, had levelled the tie early through Melvine Malard after capitalising on a goalkeeping error. The visitors remained resilient for much of the match before Bayern struck twice in quick succession late in the second half.

Glódís Viggósdóttir equalised on the night with a header in the 81st minute, and just minutes later, Linda Dallmann sealed the win with a clinical finish from inside the box, sending Bayern into their first semifinal since 2021.

+185.23 PTS SENSEX 73,319.55 | +33.70 PTS NIFTY 22,713.10 | +0.422 PAISE USD/INR 93.06 | -₹394 GOLD 14,953/1GM | -₹13650 SILVER 230,210/1KG

# India eyes preferential market access in US trade push

India is actively seeking better trade terms with the United States, stressing its strong economic position

**NEW DELHI**

Union Minister Piyush Goyal said India is working to secure preferential market access and the best possible trade deal with the United States.

He noted that India is in a strong position among emerging economies and remains the world's fastest-growing major economy, making it attractive for global investors.

Goyal highlighted key discussions held during recent World Trade Organization Ministerial meetings. The talks lasted four days and

covered important areas like WTO reforms, fisheries subsidies, e-commerce, agriculture, and investment facilitation. Member countries agreed to improve trade systems, especially to support smaller economies with better logistics and connectivity.

Progress was also made on fisheries subsidies, focusing on controlling overfishing and illegal fishing. Goyal said developing countries like India need transition periods to expand deep-sea fishing and support fishermen's incomes.

On agriculture, India repeated its demand for a permanent solution on public stockholding and special safeguards to protect farmers. Goyal stressed that pending WTO issues must be resolved quickly.

On the sidelines, he held several meetings with countries including Canada, New Zealand, and Switzerland to boost trade ties. Discussions included possible agreements and increased investment opportunities. India is also planning to send its largest business delegation to Canada soon.

Goyal noted global concerns over conflicts affecting trade routes and supply chains. However, he said India remains stable, with secure food and energy supplies, while steps are being taken to manage rising shipping and insurance costs.

## QUICK READ

### India auto metal forming sector set for growth

**New Delhi**

India's automotive metal forming sector is expected to see strong growth, with its market size likely to nearly double to $90–95 billion by FY30, growing at about 12 percent annually. The auto component industry, including casting, forging, stamping, and machining, crossed $80 billion in FY25 and became a net exporter, with exports reaching around $23 billion. The report said this growth shows better manufacturing quality and global integration, as companies shift supply chains and see India as a cost-effective and skilled manufacturing hub.

### Airtel crosses 650 million global customer milestone

**New Delhi**

Bharti Airtel has crossed 650 million customers globally, marking a major achievement. The company said its growth comes from strong digital services and solid network infrastructure across India and Africa. In India, Airtel serves 368 million mobile users, while its Africa operations cover 179 million customers in 14 countries. The company highlighted its early rollout of 5G Plus services and expansion of digital offerings like Xstream AirFiber and IPTV. Airtel also provides high-speed internet to over 13 million homes and digital TV services to 15 million users. Its Airtel Money platform, with over 52 million users, is helping improve financial access in Africa.

### Microland appoints Sam Mathew as chief executive

**Bengaluru**

Microland has appointed Sam Mathew as its new Chief Executive Officer. He was earlier serving as President and led global markets and key strategies over the past 18 months. During his tenure, Sam Mathew strengthened customer ties and expanded the company's focus on AI, automation, and platform-led services. Founder Pradeep Kar said the move aligns with the firm's long-term vision. As CEO, Mathew will lead global growth, strengthen client partnerships, and drive innovation in AI-based solutions.

## War risk insurance costs rise for airlines

**NEW DELHI**

Airlines are facing fresh financial pressure as war-risk insurance costs rise sharply amid the ongoing West Asia crisis, adding to already high fuel expenses.

Industry sources said insurers have introduced special war-risk premiums due to the Iran-Israel conflict. Earlier, Indian carriers did not require such coverage. Now, airlines are paying nearly Rs 30 lakh per round trip for narrow-body aircraft and about Rs 90 lakh for wide-body aircraft operating in sensitive regions.

This added cost comes at a time when aviation turbine fuel prices have surged. IndiGo has revised fuel surcharges for both domestic and international flights from April 2, citing rising operating costs. The airline said fuel prices in the region have increased sharply in recent weeks.

The government, through the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Ministry of Civil Aviation, has allowed only a partial 25 percent rise in domestic fuel prices to reduce the burden on passengers.

Under the new fare structure, fuel charges depend on travel distance, starting from Rs 275 for short routes and going up to Rs 950 for longer flights.

Air India has also increased fuel surcharges, pointing to rising jet fuel costs, which make up nearly 40 percent of airline expenses.

With both fuel and insurance costs rising, airlines may see pressure on earnings, even as they try to balance ticket prices and passenger demand.

## SEBI moots revival of open market share buybacks after tax reforms

**NEW DELHI**

Securities and Exchange Board of India has proposed reintroducing open market share buybacks through stock exchanges after recent changes in tax rules. The move is seen as an important step to improve market efficiency and give companies more flexibility.

In a consultation paper, SEBI suggested that companies should once again be allowed to buy back shares directly from the secondary market. This option was stopped earlier due to concerns over uneven tax treatment.

The regulator said recent amendments to the Income Tax Act have removed these issues. Under the new system, buyback proceeds will be taxed as capital gains in the hands of shareholders. This makes buybacks similar to regular stock market transactions and ensures fairness for investors.

SEBI explained that shifting the tax burden from companies to shareholders has created a level playing field. Selling shares in the open market is now comparable to participating in a buyback through stock exchanges.

The regulator also highlighted that open market buybacks are widely used across global markets. They help improve liquidity and allow continuous price discovery, which benefits investors and companies alike.

SEBI added that bringing back this method will allow companies to manage their capital more effectively while treating all public shareholders equally from a tax perspective. However, it said the proposal will include strict rules and compliance measures.

The proposal follows requests from industry bodies like Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Association of Investment Bankers of India. They argued that open market buybacks are efficient and help stabilise share prices.

If approved, the move could mark a major change in India's capital market system, offering companies another way to return cash to shareholders while improving overall market performance.

# Government expands PNG connections amid LPG pressure

**NEW DELHI**

The Central government is actively promoting Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections across the country to reduce dependence on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), especially amid the ongoing crisis in West Asia affecting global energy supplies.

At an inter-ministerial briefing, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said several measures have been introduced to speed up PNG adoption. She explained that expanding PNG access will help lower the pressure on LPG demand and ensure a more balanced energy supply system.

Sharma recalled that the government had earlier issued guidelines encouraging states to support PNG growth through ease-of-doing-business reforms. As part of this effort, states promoting PNG expansion are eligible for an additional 10 percent allocation of commercial LPG.

According to officials, around eight states have already benefited from this policy, receiving extra LPG allocations. Applications from three more states are currently under review, indicating wider participation in the scheme.

The government has also reported strong progress in expanding PNG connections over the past month. Sharma said nearly 3.33 lakh PNG connections were added recently, with about 2.90 lakh new connections provided

**India accelerates PNG expansion, adding over 3.33 lakh connections in one month to ease LPG demand and ensure stable energy supply during ongoing West Asia crisis**

and around 3.61 lakh fresh registrations recorded. This surge reflects growing interest among households and businesses in switching to piped gas systems.

The push for PNG is part of a broader strategy to diversify India's energy sources and reduce reliance on imported fuels. With global uncertainties impacting fuel supply chains, especially due to tensions in West Asia, the government aims to strengthen domestic energy distribution networks.

Officials believe that increasing PNG usage will not only improve convenience for consumers but also support long-term energy security. The government is expected to continue working with states and stakeholders to expand infrastructure and encourage faster adoption of cleaner fuel alternatives across urban and semi-urban areas.

## Large corporates drive India's flex workspace boom: Report

**NEW DELHI**

India's flexible workspace market is now led by large companies, marking a major shift in usage trends.

According to a report by Knight Frank, large enterprises account for 72 percent of total flexible workspace usage across India. This is far higher than small and medium enterprises at 18 percent and startups at just 10 percent.

The report highlights a clear change from the earlier trend, where startups were the main users of flexible offices. Today, multinational companies and large Indian firms are using these spaces as a key part of their real estate strategy.

Flexible workspace demand has grown rapidly over the years. The segment expanded from 2.2 million square feet in 2017 to 18.6 million square feet in 2025, showing strong growth. Its share in total office space transactions has also increased from 5 percent to 21 percent during this period.

Within large enterprises, global multinational companies dominate demand, making up 81 percent of enterprise seats. Many of these firms are setting up or expanding Global Capability Centres in India, which has become a major growth driver.

The report said such centres account for 52 percent of total flexible workspace demand, followed by IT service firms at 26 percent and domestic businesses at 22 percent. Flexible offices help companies enter new markets quickly and expand without long-term commitments.

## Government grants temporary SEZ relief for SEZ units

**NEW DELHI**

Government allows limited domestic sales from SEZ units to support exporters amid global challenges.

The Centre has permitted manufacturing units in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to sell goods in the domestic market under a time-bound scheme. Government sources said the move is part of a budget announcement aimed at providing relief to domestic industry facing global uncertainties.

Officials clarified that the scheme is temporary and will remain in force for one year. It is linked to export performance and the start date of manufacturing within SEZs. Authorities stressed that the main goal of SEZs, which is

to promote exports, remains unchanged and there is no dilution of the policy.

The scheme is designed as a short-term support measure in view of current geopolitical tensions affecting trade. It seeks to provide a cushion to exporters while ensuring fair competition for domestic manufacturers.

To avail the benefits, exporters must submit a certificate from the Development Commissioner. Once approved, the process will be fully automated without any manual interface. The notification also defines a clear value addition formula for eligible units.

Certain sectors have been excluded from the scheme. Food products and petroleum goods are not covered to protect sensitive domestic industries like agriculture, while petroleum remains outside due to its tax structure.

Officials said the revenue impact of the scheme is not yet clear, but Input Tax Credit will be allowed on IGST for domestic sales. The one-year window will help frame a stronger export policy. Meanwhile, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has announced duty cuts on key raw materials, likely causing a ₹1,800 crore revenue loss in three months, while tax collections remain mostly stable.

## Swabhimaan' initiative crosses Rs 1 cr revenue milestone

**MUMBAI**

Women-led initiative achieves strong growth through partnerships, boosting livelihoods and promoting financial independence across communities.

Adani Electricity and Adani Foundation announced that their women-focused Swabhimaan initiative has crossed Rs 1 crore in revenue within one year. The milestone was achieved through Swateja Mart and Swateja Kitchen, developed in partnership with Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal.

The achievement highlights the success of women-led entrepreneurship supported by strong public-private collaboration. Maharashtra Minister Aditi Tatkare visited Swateja Mart along with Rajalakshmi Shah. During the visit, Tatkare interacted with women entrepreneurs, inaugurated Swateja Kitchen, and even placed an online order through Swiggy.

She praised the initiative for promoting women empowerment and providing sustainable livelihood opportunities. Cheques were also distributed to women who successfully handled large orders.

Under the Swabhimaan programme, implemented with MAVIM and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, more than 380 self-help groups have been supported, benefiting over 4,500 women through training, savings programmes, and credit access.

Swateja Mart and Swateja Kitchen offer market access through stalls, weekly markets, corporate outlets, and online delivery platforms. Together, they have generated business worth over Rs 1 crore so far.

Officials said the milestone reflects the impact of focused CSR efforts in creating scalable models for women empowerment, while also strengthening financial independence and community development.

## Rupee registers biggest single day gain in 13 years

**NEW DELHI**

Indian rupee records sharp surge against US dollar after policy steps aimed at reducing speculation.

The Indian rupee posted its biggest single-day gain in nearly 13 years on Thursday, closing at 93.10 against the US dollar. The sharp rise followed strong action by the Reserve Bank of India to control currency speculation.

During the day, the rupee surged up to 1.7 percent, touching 93.25, marking its strongest jump since September 2013. The rally came after trading resumed following a three-day holiday break.

Market experts said improved global sentiment also supported the rupee. Comments by Donald Trump suggesting possible negotiations instead of escalation helped ease investor concerns, leading to a relief rally. However, uncertainty in global markets continues to keep volatility high.

The RBI has taken several steps to stabilise the currency. Banks have been restricted from offering rupee non-deliverable forwards to clients, and companies are not allowed to rebook cancelled forward contracts. Earlier, the central bank also capped banks' net open positions and limited certain foreign exchange derivative deals.

Analysts said India's strong foreign exchange reserves, which are above $700 billion, provide support to the rupee and allow the central bank to manage volatility effectively.

Despite the rupee's gain, global markets showed weakness. Key Asian indices, including Japan's Nikkei, Hong Kong's Hang Seng, and South Korea's KOSPI, declined amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Crude oil prices also increased sharply, with Brent crude crossing $106 per barrel, adding to global uncertainty.

**SUGAR GROWTH**

## *India's sugar output up 9% this season*

**NEW DELHI**

India's sugar production has risen by around nine percent in the 2025–26 season, reaching 272.31 lakh tons as of March 31, 2026, compared to 248.78 lakh tons during the same period last year, according to the Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association.

Despite higher output, the number of working sugar mills has dropped. Currently,

56 mills are operational, compared to 95 mills during the same time last year, showing a shift in production efficiency and operations.

Among major states, Uttar Pradesh has produced 87.5 lakh tons so far, which is nearly the same as last year. However, the number of active mills in the state has reduced to 28 from 48 earlier.

Maharashtra and Karnataka have recorded strong growth in sugar production. Maharashtra's output has increased to 99.3 lakh tons from 80.26 lakh tons last year, while Karnataka has produced 47.90 lakh tons, up from 39.94 lakh tons in the previous season. At present, only about four mills are operational across both states, compared to seven last year.

Industry experts expect some mills in South Karnataka to restart operations during a special season between June and September 2026. In addition, a few mills in Tamil Nadu are also likely to continue operations during this period.

As the season ends, the Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association has urged an early revision of sugar's Minimum Selling Price, citing rising costs and low returns affecting mills and farmer payments. It also called for higher ethanol blending to cut crude imports. Reduced demand due to LPG issues and outlet closures has increased pressure, making timely policy support crucial.

# Parliament screens Azad Bharat film to honour Netaji legacy

Parliament House hosted a special screening of the Hindi film Azad Bharat as a tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, whose life continues to inspire the nation with his patriotism and dedication to service. The film is produced and directed by Karnataka's Dr. Roopa Iyer.

The screening took place at the GMC Balayogi Auditorium located in the Parliament Library Building. It was organised to pay respect to Netaji and remember his role in India's freedom struggle. Members of Parliament, along with officials from different ministries, attended the event and paid homage after watching the film. The special show was arranged for members of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, ministry officials, and their families. Among the notable attendees were Netaji's granddaughter Rajyashree Chaudhuri and former Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi, who marked their presence on the occasion.

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi spoke about Netaji's great contribution to the freedom movement. He also honoured a 101-year-old veteran of the Indian National Army, recognising his service to the country. Before the screening, Dr. Roopa Iyer and the film's cast and crew were felicitated for their efforts, with Joshi praising her as a proud representative of Karnataka.

He said the film aims to inspire the younger generation by showcasing Netaji's patriotism and strong national values. He added that such efforts help promote unity and keep alive the spirit of sacrifice among today's youth.

The screening of Azad Bharat served as a meaningful tribute to freedom fighters and honoured the sacrifices of the Indian National Army. Additional Secretary of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Dr. K.S. Somashekar, was also present.

# 'Class of Mysore'

## Completes First Shooting Schedule with Star Cast

The muhurat and title launch of the film Class of Mysore was celebrated in a grand manner at the shrine of Sri Bande Mahankali Amma. Director-producer Gautham Basavaraju, known for Yathabhava, is preparing to present another distinct cinematic venture. By handling the story, screenplay, and direction himself, he has created strong expectations among audiences. The film is being produced under the MACT Entertainments banner, with Vijayendra Suryavanshi associating as co-producer.

The highly anticipated Kannada film has now successfully wrapped up its first schedule of shooting. Filming was carried out in the scenic locations of Goa and Gokarna, enhancing the film's visual richness.

Living up to its title, the project is an ambitious effort by the team and has already sparked considerable interest among viewers. The storyline blends elements of thrill, emotion, and suspense, promising a refreshing cinematic experience.

The movie features an experienced cast including Rangayana Raghu, Sharath Lohitashwa, Biradar, Tabla Nani, Dattanna, Tara Anuradha, and Mahanthesh, with Vijayendra Suryavanshi also appearing in a key role.

With major portions filmed in Goa and Gokarna, the first phase has been completed successfully, and the second schedule is planned for April.

Directed by Gautham Basavaraju, the film is a comedy entertainer that combines cultural elements with emotional depth. Cinematography is by S.K. Rao, art direction by Ullas Haidhoor, dialogues by Masti, lyrics by Nagarjuna Sharma, and music by Joe Costa, adding vibrancy to the film.

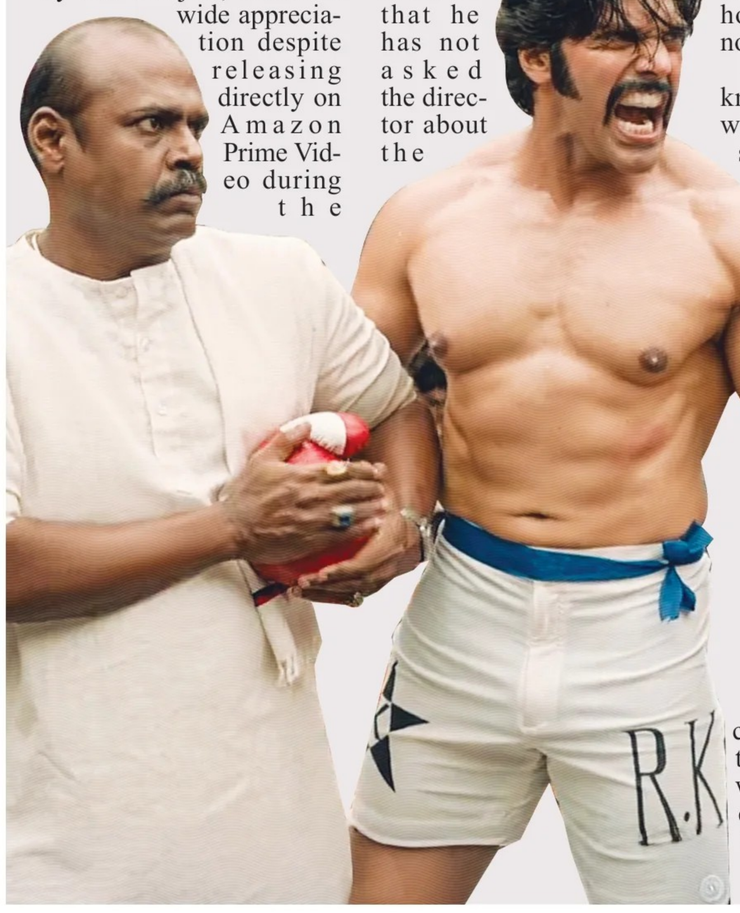
# Sarpatta Parambarai 2

## may begin shooting by June soon

Actor Muthukumar has shared a fresh update about the much-awaited sequel Sarpatta Parambarai 2, hinting that the film could begin shooting as early as June. His comments have created excitement among fans who have been eagerly waiting for news about the project. The original film, Sarpatta Parambarai (2021), directed by Pa. Ranjith, received wide appreciation despite releasing directly on Amazon Prime Video during the COVID-19 period. Starring Arya, Pasupathy, and Shabeer Kallarakkal, the film was praised for its gripping story and performances. Speaking in a recent interaction, Muthukumar said he does not know many details about the sequel yet but confirmed that discussions are ongoing. He mentioned that he has not asked the director about the storyline, including whether it will be a prequel or a continuation.

The actor expressed strong trust in director Pa. Ranjith and said he is always ready to join the project whenever called. He added that he would be prepared as soon as the director gives the signal. Muthukumar also revealed that the film might go on floors in June, raising hopes for an official announcement soon.

Fans are now curious to know whether the sequel will continue the original story or explore a new angle. The update has renewed interest in the film across audiences. Meanwhile, Muthukumar has been receiving positive feedback for his recent performances, including his role in Thaai Kizhavi. With several projects lined up, the actor continues to stay active in the Tamil film industry while fans await the next chapter of this popular boxing drama.



## Neelira Early Reviews Call It Best Film This Year

Early reactions for Neelira have created strong excitement among movie lovers ahead of its release on April 3. The film stars Naveen Chandra, Roopa Koduvayur, and Sananth in key roles. Set during the 1988 Sri Lankan civil conflict, the story mixes war, emotions, and love in a simple but powerful way.

Directed by debutant Someetharan and produced by Karthik Subbaraj and Rana Daggubati, the film has already received praise for its gripping screenplay and strong performances. Many early viewers have called it one of the best films of the year.

One reviewer shared that even though the film is set during a war, its main focus is on how true love can bring peace between divided groups.

# Bhooth Bangla previews April 16

The much-awaited horror comedy Bhooth Bangla, starring Akshay Kumar and Wamiqa Gabbi, is set to hit theatres with paid previews starting on April 16, 2026, at 9 PM. The makers have planned this release carefully, considering the strong box office run of Dhurandhar: The Revenge, which is currently drawing large audiences.

Producer Ekta Kapoor shared the update on social media, confirming that the decision was taken after discussions with distributors and exhibitors. The move is expected to help both films run smoothly in theatres by ensuring enough screens and audience attention. The team has expressed excitement about welcoming viewers from the evening shows on April 16. The teaser of Bhooth Bangla, released earlier in March, received a positive response and gave a glimpse of its mix of spooky scenes and comedy. The film marks another collaboration involving Akshay Kumar, raising hopes among fans who enjoy his comic timing and energetic performances. The film features a strong supporting cast, including Paresh Rawal, Rajpal Yadav, Tabu, and the late Asrani in key roles. Other actors such as Jisshu Sengupta, Manoj Joshi, Mithila Palkar, and Rajesh Sharma also play important parts, adding depth and humour to the story.

# RAM CHARAN CONFIRMS PEDDI RELEASE ON APRIL THIRTY TRACK

Actor Ram Charan has cleared doubts about the release of his upcoming film Peddi, assuring fans that the movie will arrive as planned on April 30. His statement comes after recent rumours suggested possible delays in the film's release.

The actor shared his confidence while promoting the film Rakasa, produced by his cousin Niharika Konidela. During a casual interaction with the team, Ram Charan said, Promote your film well, Peddi won't be late, putting an end to growing speculation among fans.

Earlier, the film was scheduled to release on March 27, 2026, but was later postponed to April 30. This change had already created some concern, and fresh rumours about another delay further worried audiences. However, there has been no official confirmation from the makers about any new change in the release date.

Peddi is a village-based sports action drama that focuses on a cricket tournament. The film also includes elements of action and emotion, making it a complete entertainer. Recently, the makers released the Peddi Pehelwan teaser, showing Ram Charan in a powerful wrestler look, which received a good response from fans.

The movie features Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead, marking her second Telugu film. The cast also includes well-known actors like Shiva Rajkumar, Divyendu Sharma, Jagapathi Babu, and Boman Irani in important roles.

Music for the film is composed by AR Rahman, adding to the film's appeal. With Ram Charan's reassurance, fans can now look forward to the film's release without confusion, as excitement continues to build for this much-awaited project.

# *Jackie Chan returns in sequel*

Action legend Jackie Chan is back with a mix of comedy, action, and emotion as Panda Plan 2: The Magical Tribe prepares for its release. The makers have unveiled two official trailers, giving audiences a glimpse into the fun-filled sequel.

The film continues the story of the lovable panda Hu Hu and Jackie Chan's character, taking them on a new adventure. This time, they find themselves in a mysterious land where they come across a hidden primitive tribe. The story takes an interesting turn when Hu Hu is believed to be a divine beast who can save the tribe from danger.

As the situation becomes more complex, strange warriors and magical leaders begin to chase them. Jackie Chan's character must protect Hu Hu while uncovering the secrets of this magical world. The film promises a mix of fantasy, humour, and exciting moments.

Directed by Derek Hui and written by Keyang Pan, the movie carries a fairy-tale style while keeping the action-comedy tone of the first film. The trailers show colourful visuals, fast scenes, and light-hearted comedy, making it suitable for all age groups.

The cast also includes actors Li Ma, Yang Yu, and Shan Qiao, who add energy and humour to the story.

Scheduled to release on April 17, 2026, the film aims to expand the world of Panda Plan with more adventure and imagination.

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